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THE TIMES

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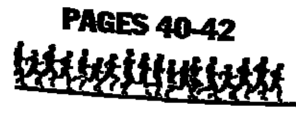
MARATHON

MORE FLORA LONDON MARATHON FINISHERS

PAGES 40-42



THE CRADLE OF EDUCATION

Is school the right place for two-year-olds?

PAGE 18

SPRING BOOKS

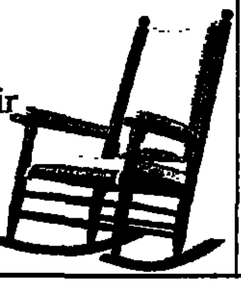
Peter Ackroyd on Bernard Shaw
Ben Macintyre on Allan Pinkerton,
Derwent May on Anthony Powell
Valerie Grove on Djuna Barnes

PAGES 40, 41

OFF THEIR ROCKERS?

The $400,000 chair and the Jackie O bidding frenzy

PAGES 11 & 19



APPOINTMENTS

28 PAGES of top jobs

First hint of 'feel-good' factor

Tories given glimmer of hope by poll

By Peter Riddell

PEOPLE have at last started to feel more optimistic about the economic outlook and are more positive about John Major than at any time for three years, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

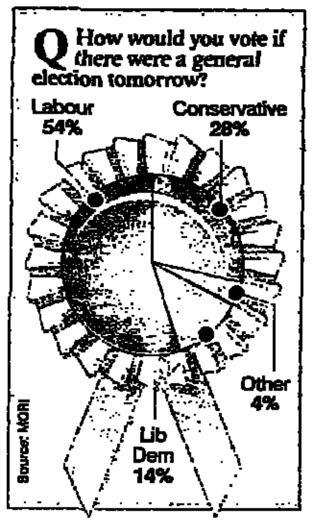
But the shift in attitude has not yet changed voting intentions or the expectation of big Conservative losses in next week's council elections.

The poll, conducted last weekend, shows that support for the Tories remained at 28 per cent over the past month, Labour slipped three points to 54 per cent — its lowest level since September — while the Liberal Democrats are up a point at 14 per cent.

MORI has for the first time this month listed the Referendum Party in its voting intentions question, but only six people said they planned to vote for it, too few to register in the percentage shares.

Tory strategists will be pleased at the first real sign of the "feel-good" factor that has remained elusive in spite of the evidence of economic growth. The MORI economic optimism index has improved sharply to its highest level since November 1994. Many of those interviewed will have just noticed the Budget tax cuts in their pay packets and benefited from recent mortgage rate cuts.

The index, measuring those who think that the country's general economic condition will improve rather than get worse, has been in the range of minus 17 to minus 19 points since last summer, but has now improved to minus six.



Mr Major's personal rating has also improved to its best level since January 1993. While many more people are still dissatisfied with the way he is doing his job as Prime Minister than are satisfied, the gap is now minus 33 points. This compares with minus 39 at the end of March and minus 50 last year.

Approval for Mr Major among Tory supporters has also improved to plus 39, around the peak levels touched only a couple of times since 1993.

Disapproval of the way the Government is running the country has also dropped a little from previous very high levels. Nonetheless, by a five-to-one margin, people are dissatisfied rather than satisfied with the Government.

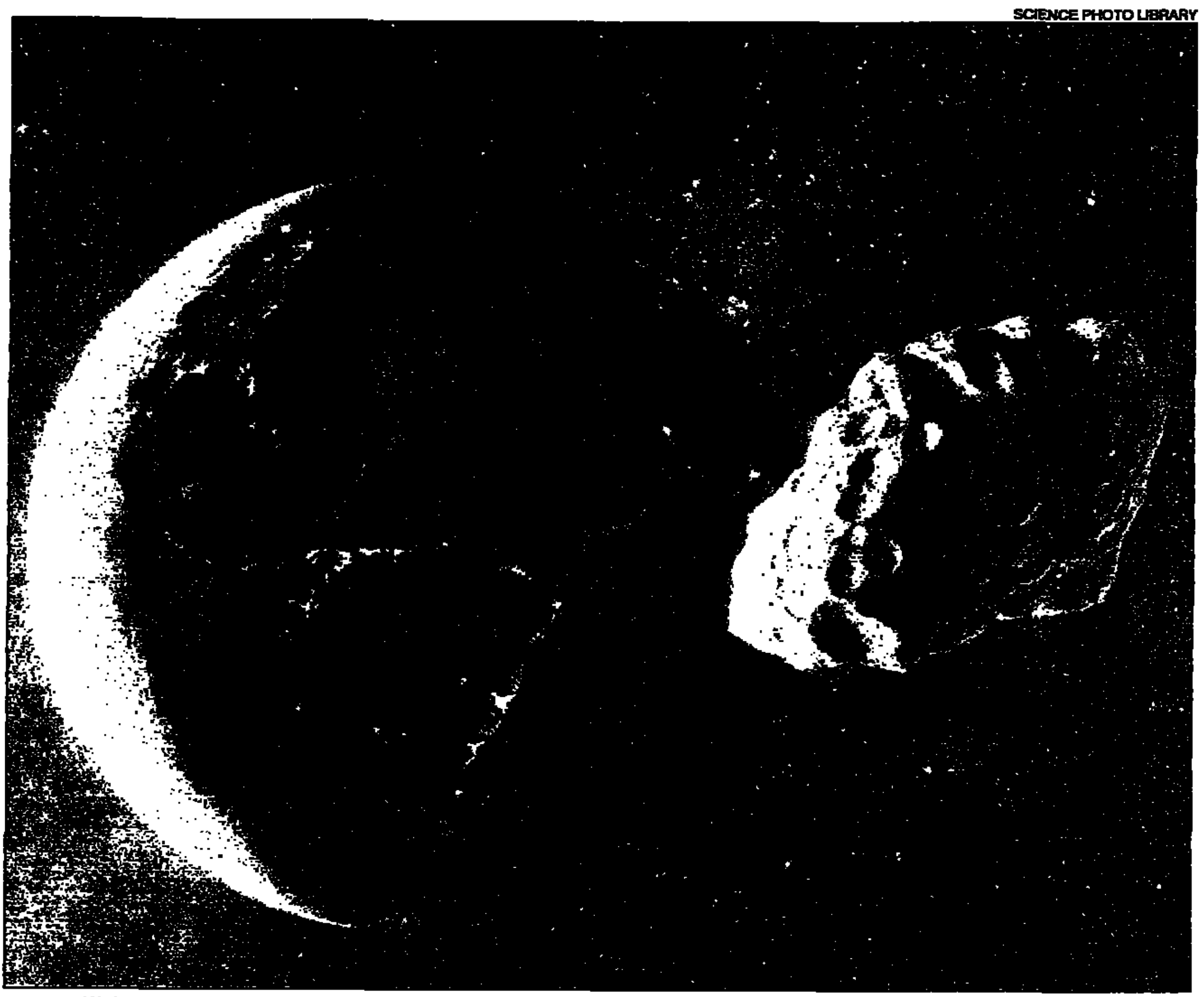
The poll offers at most a glint of hope for the Tories. But they will remain cautious until there is evidence of a pick-up in the party's rating, especially after raising expectations before the Staffordshire South-East by-election which turned into one of their worst defeats.

The drop in the Labour rating is not yet significant. Tony Blair's personal rating has fallen a little, but is still higher than for the other two party leaders. Half the public are satisfied with the way he is doing his job, with 28 per cent dissatisfied. Moreover, Labour supporters approve of his performance by more than five-to-one.

Paddy Ashdown retains a positive rating, among both the public as a whole and Liberal Democrat supporters.

MORI interviewed 1,947 adults at 146 points across Britain from April 19 to 22. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (10%), are undecided (7%) or refused to say (3%).

"At last the feel-good factor's returning"



SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

Collision course: an artist's impression, using computer simulation, of an asteroid passing close to Earth

Eros has blind date with Earth

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

AN ASTEROID twice the size of the one that killed the dinosaurs could be on a collision course with the Earth.

Should Eros, a chunk of rock nearly 15 miles long, hit us, the effect would be catastrophic. When an object half as big hit the Earth 65 million years ago, it created a huge crater and hurled so much debris into the atmosphere that the climate was changed, vegetation died, and the dinosaurs disappeared.

Panic would be premature, however. There is "no significant danger" that Eros will collide with us in the next 100,000 years. On a much longer time scale, however, such an impact is quite likely.

The calculations have been made by an Italian-French team, led by Dr Paolo Farinelli of the University of Pisa. Working out the future movements of asteroids is not entirely straightforward because on a prolonged timescale they are chaotic — tiny changes in starting conditions can make a big difference to the end result.

Close encounters with other planets, including Mars, can alter the orbits and inexact knowledge of what the orbit is makes long-term prediction impossible. Even the computer programme used to make the calculations can affect the result.

So the team, reporting in *Nature*, has not attempted an exact prediction but has used two different computers to simulate a range of eight possible evolutions of the orbit of Eros.

Over the next 100,000 years or so all these simulations show Eros behaving normally, its orbit crossing that of Mars but not coming worryingly close to Earth. But over longer times, three of the eight orbits simulated do evolve into Earth-crossers and one produces a collision with the Earth just over one million years from now.

"Although our simulations indicate no significant danger of a catastrophic impact by this large, near-Earth asteroid during the next 100,000 years, such a collision is likely in the far future" the researchers conclude.

Eros is the largest of the near-Earth asteroids, going around the Sun on an elliptical path whose closest approach to the Earth's orbit is 14 million miles, and whose most distant is 72 million miles. A spacecraft called *Near* — Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous — is now on its way to Eros, and will go into orbit around it in 1999.

Launched at a cost of $122 million (£82 million), *Near* should tell us a great deal about asteroids in general and Eros in particular.

The US space agency Nasa chose Eros, not because it is a threat, but because it is relatively easy to reach.

100 Tories revolt against divorce reforms

By Jill Sherman and Alice Thomson

MORE than a hundred Tory MPs, including 16 ministers and whips, voted against the Lord Chancellor's divorce reforms last night.

In one of the biggest revolts against an important element of the Conservative programme, the Government had to rely on Labour to get its proposals through.

Within minutes of the free vote on whether the concept of fault should be scrapped in divorce proceedings, two former ministers had called for progress on the Family Reform Bill to be reconsidered.

John Patten the former Education Secretary claimed that Lord Mackay of Clashfern's proposals were now in Labour's hands and would get through only with its backing. "I have never knwon the Government's Bill to be at the mercy of the opposition party," he said. "It would be wise to halt progress on the Bill *now and reflect whether it is* wise to continue."

And the former Chief Whip Michael Jopling said: "Well over 100 MPs on the government's side voted against what is the guts of the Bill. I ask the Leader of the House, when things have cooled down and the dust has settled, that he and his colleagues must reconsider whether they should proceed or not with the Bill."

Ministers and whips who voted for an amendment to keep the concept of fault included John Bowis, Simon Burns, James Clappison, Derek Conway, David Davis, Dr Liam Fox, John Horam, Tim Kirkhope, David Maclean, Patrick McLoughlin, Tom Sackville, Iain Sproat, John Watts, Ann Widdecombe and David Willetts. They were joined by Michael Trend and

Continued on page 2, col 5

Debate, page 9

PLO ends fight against Israel

The Palestine Liberation Organisation has declared an end to its 32-year armed struggle against Israel, voting to drop from its charter all references to the destruction of the Jewish state. A spokesman said the PLO parliament-in-exile had voted 504 in favour of amending the charter, with 54 voting against.

Hezbollah fights on, page 16

Clinton threat to Sinn Fein

President Clinton is expected to sever relations with Gerry Adams if the IRA refuses to resume its ceasefire and disqualifies Sinn Fein from all-party talks on Northern Ireland's future. Mr Adams yesterday confirmed that Sinn Fein will contest the Northern Ireland elections..........Page 2

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17

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Major says pulling out of EU is 'cloud-cuckoo-land'

By Philip Webster, political editor, and James Landale

JOHN MAJOR yesterday told politicians pressing for withdrawal from the European Union that they were living in cloud-cuckoo-land.

However he responded to the rising tide of public and media disaffection with Brussels by signalling a hardening of British attitudes within the EU.

He delivered his sharpest warning yet that he will use the British veto if he fails to get his way in the current intergovernmental conference (IGC) on Europe's future, said that he was looking for an EU constructed in Britain's image, and hinted at a policy of non-co-operation if it continues to try to impose the *Social Chapter* in Britain by the backdoor.

Mr Major's delicate attempt to answer the growing threat posed by Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party *while reassuring Tory critics* that he will fight any further moves towards integration came as John Redwood, the former Tory leadership challenger, met Sir James to warn him that he was in danger of splitting the Euro-sceptic vote and letting in a federalist Labour Party.

Mr Redwood, as he had expected, failed to persuade Sir James not to put up candidates against the Tories, although the two men found they shared a broad measure of agreement about the kind of Europe they want to see.

Mr Major, in his speech to the Institute of Directors, was trying to contain the growing *demands for withdrawal* while satisfying the clamour, intensified since the beef crisis erupted, from within the Tory party, MPs and some of his Cabinet for him to take a *stand. His first intention was* to kill the idea that there is any alternative for Britain to full membership. He spoke of the hard-headed benefits Britain had gained and said it was naive, wrong and damaging to suggest that the choice for Britain was to go along with every demand its partners made or "head for the exit."

Anyone who seriously thought of leaving should explain what that meant for inward investment and the impact on the City, he said.

"Some suggest we could just negotiate a trading relationship with Europe. But frankly the idea that if we were outside

Continued on page 2, col 6

Major speech, page 11
Leading article, page 21
EMU rejected, page 25
Conference report, page 26
City Diary, page 29

Lang puts block on electricity takeovers

By Christine Buckley

TWO takeover bids which would have revolutionised Britain's electricity industry were blocked yesterday by the Government.

Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said the bids by two generating companies would be detrimental to competition. His decision has blocked the £2.5 billion purchase of Southern Electric, the company serving the south of England, by generator National Power, and the £1.9 billion takeover bid by PowerGen of Midlands Electricity.

A billion pounds was wiped off the value of the privatised electricity companies after the ruling. Southern Electric lost *£200 million from its value* with shares falling 79p to 824p. Midlands Electricity lost £157 million when its shares fell 41p to 370p.

In taking the decision, Mr *Lang overturned a Monopolies and Mergers Commission* report.

One of the reasons for splitting the industry at the sell-off six years ago was to introduce more competition and bring down the price to the customer. However, domestic consumers have benefited only marginally, while shareholders have seen their holdings soar and have received a stream of special payouts from a cash-rich industry which has shed more than 43,000 jobs since privatisation. Controversy over the planned takeovers heightened last week when Southern Company, a giant American utility, said that it was *interested in merging with* National Power.

Row continues, page 25
Pennington, page 27
Stock market, page 28

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£72m bill for rail-link before work begins

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport correspondent

THE *Government has paid* £72 million in fees to consultants, bankers and lawyers for advice on the Channel Tunnel rail link, even though building work starts only next spring.

In all 74 firms have been hired by the Government since 1992. *Labour* said yesterday it was "incredible" so much taxpayers' money had been spent before a yard of the 68-mile high-speed link was built. Glenda Jackson, the party's London Transport spokeswoman, said: "Once again, taxpayers' money has been finding its way to the coffers of companies with links to the Tory party. This can only add to the aura of sleaze surrounding this blighted administration."

The contract to build the *line*, expected to open in 2002, was awarded in February to London & Continental Railways, a consortium including Richard Branson's Virgin Group and National Express. It will receive a £1.4 billion Treasury subsidy. Advisory work was commissioned by Union Railways, a government-owned company responsible to date for planning and managing the £3 billion project.

Tory MPs who advised companies *involved include Sir Edward Heath*, the former Prime Minister, David Howell, a Transport Secretary during the 1980s, and Eric Pickles, a party vice-chairman. Lord Parkinson, also once Transport Secretary, has chaired one company. The names were disclosed in the 1995 register of members' interests, but it is not known if the links still existed when contracts were awarded.

The rail link will enable Eurostar trains to go at 186mph in England, saving 30 minutes on journeys between London and Paris.

TV & RADIO 46, 47
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORDS............24, 48
LETTERS 21
OBITUARIES 23
JACK STRAW.......................20
ARTS 33-35
CHESS & BRIDGE.......... 43
COURT & SOCIAL.......... 22
SPORT 43-46, 48
BODY AND MIND 18
TRAVEL NEWS 38, 39

Tory Broad Church celebrates meaningless ritual

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

What sort of MPs do we have? Splashed across the pages of most of our newspapers yesterday morning was the story of a Nottingham school's attempt to expel a violent young troublemaker, Richard Wilding. By coincidence, yesterday afternoon featured an hour of questions to the Education Secretary. Some could have been used by MPs to raise that issue. But did any Tory or Labour backbencher mention Wilding? Did the Opposition front bench ask about him?

Not a peep. Possibly MPs simply forgot about it. The scope and level of discussion in these dog-days of a political dynasty is pitiful, and growing more so. The Government is jumpy and defensive, the Opposition terrified of serious debate.

Yesterday the Tories used an hour of questions on education and employment to repeat ad nauseam that Labour's plans for a minimum wage would cost jobs. This was raised on Question 1, raised again on Question 2, and raised again and again by backbenchers (primed) and ministers (self-priming) in the questions which followed, though none was actually about the minimum wage. The only other subject the Tories wanted to discuss was Harriet Harman's and Tony Blair's choices of schools for their children. This, too, had nothing to do with any of the questions, but successive members slipped in their weary jibes regardless.

On Labour's side, the tone is grindingly negative. You get no sense of belief in something better or enthusiasm for new ideas, just a constant, carping insistence that to every problem there is a Tory cause. Labour dare not even talk about spending these days.

The Liberal Democrats were locked in a venemous internal dispute between David Alton (Lib Dem, Liverpool Mossley Hill) and the party's education spokesman, Don Foster. Mr Alton, a Christian of the toxic tendency, has accused Mr Foster of saying he wants to abolish religious schools and school worship. Mr Foster, a careerist of the bland tendency, insists he said no such thing. Liberal Democrats, when they fight each other, fight like weasels in a sack. Yesterday the Tories had fun prodding the sack.

One turned in despair to the text of the Prime Minister's speech that morning to the Institute of Directors. It is difficult to work out what this speech means. Instead of sitting on the fence in the time-honoured way, Mr Major has taken to hopping rapidly backwards and forwards from one side of the fence to the other, the overall impression being of an ambiguous blur, like a humming-bird's wings. Thus the IoD speech could be intoned by two choirs, in the way of the versicles and responses in a High Church service. Europhiles could take one part, Eurosceptics the counterpart.

Our psalm is taken from the text of that IoD speech. It should be chanted in plainsong. In each section an oblique stroke is used to indicate a changed note: the first down, the second up.

"We are in Europe and we all know we are staying / in / Europe."

"There are some who *question / that / membership.*"

"I do not seek confrontation; nor do I / ex/pect it."

"If it isn't in our interest I will just / say / no."

"There is a lot / that / helps us."

"Not every decision is what we would / have / liked."

"But neither is every decision comfortable for every o/ther / country."

"There are things we don't like / about / Europe."

"But I also see clearly the hard-headed benefits Britain / has / gained."

A/men

Clinton ready to ditch Adams over ceasefire

By Martin Fletcher and Philip Webster

PRESIDENT CLINTON is expected to sever relations with Gerry Adams if the IRA refuses to resume its ceasefire and disqualifies Sinn Fein from all-party talks on Northern Ireland's future.

Highly placed sources say that the Sinn Fein president has been left in no doubt that the policy of the American Administration towards his party will change dramatically if it declines to participate in the next stage of a peace process in which Mr Clinton has invested much.

Mr Adams confirmed yesterday as expected that Sinn Fein will contest the elections in Northern Ireland to be held next month, but again gave no hint that a new ceasefire was likely. The SDLP also announced it would field candidates, clearing the way to a poll on May 30. Mr Clinton, who felt betrayed by the IRA bomb in London's Docklands after his decision to see Mr Adams during his visit to Belfast last November, is said to be ready to cut him adrift if he lets him down again.

The Administration believes Sinn Fein should be allowed into talks if the ceasefire returns, even if the announcement comes only days before the projected starting date for discussions of June 10. Mr Clinton wants the talks to go ahead without Sinn Fein if the ceasefire is not resumed.

While Mr Adams has a few weeks of his existing US visa to run, future applications would be likely to be rejected. "If Mr Adams becomes a pariah on the international stage then so be it," a senior source has said.

Mr Clinton is continuing to take a keen interest in the peace process and has had a stream of meetings with Northern Ireland politicians. At his recent talks with Tony Blair he made a point of congratulating him on maintaining support for the Government's line. Opinion in the White House has been hardening sharply against Sinn Fein since it renewed its campaign of violence. It believes the IRA should have resumed its ceasefire after Mr Major and John Bruton agreed a timetable for elections and all-party talks.

Clinton: felt betrayed by Docklands bomb

A senior Administration official said the White House had been pressing hard for a restoration of the ceasefire so Sinn Fein could participate in the all-party talks.

No final decision on what to do if it does not take part has been made. But the official said it was obvious that, without the ceasefire, "Adams is not going to have the same access he has had in the past. Without a ceasefire we have problems and we have made that very clear."

The official pointed to the "dramatic shift" in the way Mr Adams was treated on his St Patrick's Day visit to Washington last month. He was denied his customary invitation to the White House and the Administration admitted him to the US only so he could hear first-hand how much Irish-America deplored the return to violence.

Tony Lake, President Clinton's national security adviser, had a secret meeting with Mr Adams away from the White House, but used it to stress the importance of restoring the ceasefire. The Administration continues privately to relay that message.

McGuinness rules out fresh truce

A LEADING member of Sinn Fein said last night that there was "no prospect whatsoever" of a new ceasefire unless the IRA could be convinced there would be "real" peace negotiations.

Martin McGuinness said that, as things stood, it would be a waste of time for him or Gerry Adams to go to the IRA and ask for a new ceasefire. The republicans are barred from the all-party talks due to start on June 10 unless the IRA restores the ceasefire.

Mr McGuinness said: "At the moment there is no prospect whatsoever of a restoration of the ceasefire, unless we can be in a position to go to the IRA and convince them that we are going to have real and meaningful peace negotiations."

Speaking on BBC Northern Ireland's *Newsline*, Mr McGuinness said there was a feeling in the nationalist community that "the British Government and the unionists are not serious about negotiating an honest and just settlement to this conflict".

He also said that the ceasefire of August 1994 had never been permanent: it was a complete cessation which could have been made permanent only through dialogue between the Governments and all political parties.

Brussels demands action by Britain to curb BSE

By Charles Bremner, Philip Webster and Michael Hornsby

THE European Commission told Britain yesterday that time was running out for it to produce a firm plan for eradicating "mad cow" disease if it wanted EU farm ministers to ease the beef ban next week.

Jacques Santer, the Commission President, was reported by his spokesman to have sent a message to John Major urging him "to avoid the situation where the Commission and member states receive imprecise and unwritten indications too late" for next Monday's meeting.

However, British officials said the Prime Minister had received no message although M Santer had made the point in a telephone conversation with Stephen Wall, the British Ambassador to the EU.

The warning came as the National Farmers' Union met the Prime Minister and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, at Downing Street yesterday and announced that it would launch a joint legal challenge to the export ban with representatives of beef hauliers and exporters in the High Court today.

Afterwards Mr Hogg, who had lengthy discussions with Franz Fischler, the EU Farm Commissioner in Brussels on Tuesday, spoke of moving in a "step-by-step" way to a solution. But the Government is still a long way from reaching an agreement.

Ministers want a guarantee that Brussels will lift at least part of the ban — for example on semen and embryos and beef-derived products such as gelatine and tallow — when the Government unveils details of the slaughter policy. Britain is fighting the insistence of Brussels and EU member states that the cull should be allowed to operate for some months before the ban is lifted. Some EU states want the Government to slaughter all herds which have had any case of BSE, which would wipe out half the dairy cattle in Britain, involving millions of animals.

Mr Major told the Commons last week that the Government would soon be starting legal proceedings of its own.

The Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday: "We expect that it will run in parallel with the NFU action before the European Court."

Not all exporters support the move. Nick Askaroff, managing director of Anglo Dutch Meats of Eastbourne, said: "As an industry it would do us no good at all as our export markets will still refuse to take the product."

Leading article, page 21

SIMON WALKER

Sir James: refused to give up challenge to Tories

Major warning

Continued from page 1

the EU we could somehow become a trading haven on the edge of Europe with all the benefits of that vital market of 370 million, while others fix the rules without any regard at all to our national self-interest, is Cloud-cuckoo-land."

However, for much of his speech the Prime Minister set put his determination "passionately" to reject the centralising aims of some of his partners. "At Maastricht I said no to policies I thought would be damaging. If I had not won on those issues there would have been no treaty.

"On the IGC we have set out our position. Nothing can be imposed on us in the IGC unless we agree. If it is not in our interest I won't agree. I will just say no."

He said that Britain aimed to "build a Europe that is more in our image."

He said: "If we win the arguments to build a Europe of nation states, all of Europe will benefit. If others choose to go in a direction that we reject they need to recognise that we will stand our ground and will not follow them. The Europe that evolves will be flexible — and will need to be — to recognise and accommodate our national interest and beliefs as well as theirs."

Redwood: failed to get deal on election tactics

He added that he had told his partners that they must stop trying to get round the Social Chapter opt-out by trying to impose provisions such as the maximum 48 hour week by other means.

Mr Redwood and Sir James met for 50 minutes at the Dorchester Hotel in London. Afterwards Mr Redwood said: "I haven't managed to persuade him to back the Conservative Party as the best way of achieving the kind of Europe we both want."

"But I still think it would be better if Sir James's candidates were withdrawn from the Conservative Party's point of view because then there is no uncertainty."

Sir James agreed that they had been "broadly speaking" in agreement although not in "total harmony". He said: "John Redwood and I have broadly similar positions on the type of Europe we want to see but the Referendum Party has only one objective and that is to have a referendum."

Although he made clear that the challenge to the Tories would continue, he indicated that he might not put up a candidate against Mr Redwood. Mr Redwood would, however, have to back a full referendum on whether Britain should be run by Brussels or Westminster, and not just on the narrower issue of a single currency.

Major speech, page 11
Leading article, page 21
EMU rejected, page 25
Conference report, page 26
City Diary, page 29

Divorce revolt

Continued from page 1

Dame Angela Rumbold, both Tory vice-chairmen, and at least 17 parliamentary private secretaries.

The amendment, put forward by the former Trade Minister Edward Leigh, was nevertheless defeated by 267 votes to 137.

Business managers were expecting an even bigger revolt on the second free vote last night to extend the cooling-off period for divorce from a year to 18 months. The Lord Chancellor has argued in favour of keeping to the 12-month period but is said to be relaxed about extending it slightly.

Tony Blair voted in favour of removing fault from the divorce process and was intending to back the 12-month cooling off period. However, his aides said that he intended to back an amendment during later stages of the Bill for a mandatory reconciliation period.

Before the vote, Tory backbenchers voiced concerns that the reforms, which had a stormy passage through the Lords, would encourage rather than prevent family breakdown. Mr Leigh urged the Government to scrap the idea of no-fault divorce after a year, saying Parliament should lay down a moral cornerstone for marriage partners.

Dame Angela Rumbold, said that the Bill should concentrate on making the marriage contract more solid, not less. "Is the message we really want to give to the nation that these marriage vows mean nothing?"

But the solicitors' Family Law Association welcomed the vote, describing it as useful in reducing antagonism.

Debate, page 9

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amnesty on guns will last a month

A firearms amnesty is to be held in June to capitalise on public revulsion after the Dunblane massacre. People handing in illegal weapons at police stations will not be prosecuted unless it can be proved the weapons have been used in criminal activity.

A £75,000 publicity campaign will herald the launch of the amnesty, running from June 3 to June 30 in England, Wales and Scotland. It will not operate in Northern Ireland.

Teachers to strike

Twenty teachers at Glaisdale comprehensive school in Nottinghamshire are to begin an indefinite strike tomorrow to avoid teaching Richard Wilding, 13, who has returned after being expelled for allegedly threatening staff and attacking pupils.

Labour tax row

The accountants KPMG cancelled seminars on Labour's tax plans after claims by Gordon Brown they were "peddling rumours and lies". KPMG said: "Misreporting of these seminars has distorted their content. The firm has and always will be apolitical."

Drug girl, 12

A 12-year-old girl at Dame Allan's independent school in Newcastle upon Tyne has been accused of selling marijuana to another pupil. The head teacher said yesterday: "I am conducting an inquiry to find out who was involved."

Video stopped

Production of a video showing scenes of drunken youths invading football pitches across Europe was halted after Gordon Banks, the former England goalkeeper, said he had been duped into giving an interview to the makers of Hooligan 96.

Rape awards

Two prostitutes who brought the first successful private prosecution for rape have been awarded compensation of £5,000 each. The Crown Prosecution Service had said there was insufficient evidence to prosecute the man, from Margate, Kent.

Stalker struck off

A German doctor who stalked the Princess of Wales was struck off the medical register for drug abuse. Dr Klaus Wagner, 37, of Stratford, east London, prescribed himself "litres" of morphine-based drugs.

Boy, 14, is held

A boy aged 14 was arrested in connection with the killing of a 17-year-old supermarket worker. The victim, Andrew Weighell, died of a skull fracture after being hit with a golf club on a playing field at Redcar, on Teesside.

X-ray protest

The Royal College of Radiologists said "scaremongering" in a *Panorama* programme on X-rays had led to patients cancelling treatments. A programme spokeswoman said: "What is wrong with letting people know of a small risk?"

Accountant wins

Stewart Harries, 35, a chartered accountant in London unfairly dismissed after refusing to hide income irregularities for the German-owned Siemens engineering firm, was awarded £15,000 by an industrial tribunal.

5 things you didn't know about life after death.

1. The average 'breadwinner' is insured for only 2 years' earnings.
2. The average mortgage-linked life policy covers the house but will rarely provide for the family.
3. The average family spends more than £800 a month.
4. A widow/widower with 2 children can receive as little as £79 a week from the State.
5. It can cost as little as 27p a day to protect your family with £100,000 life cover*.

It's an alarming fact that many people are seriously under-insured. Some of them are simply not aware how much money their family would need, should the worst happen. Others may believe that the necessary life cover would be too costly for them to afford.

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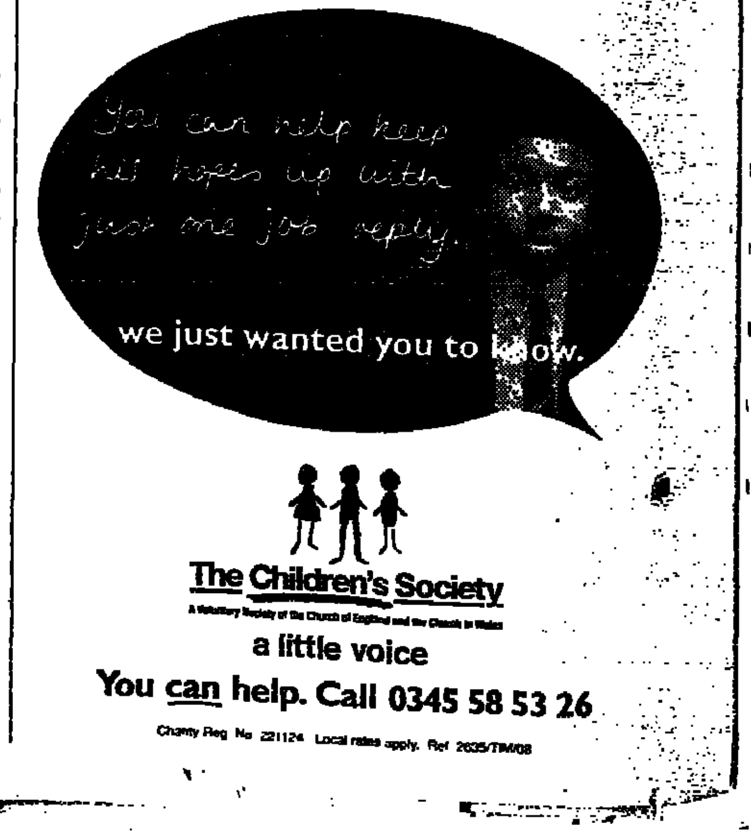
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Blair's aide was a character assassin, MP tells libel trial

By Russell Jenkins

A LABOUR MP told the High Court yesterday that he saw a journalist, now one of Tony Blair's closest aides, soliciting signatures on a hand-drafted parliamentary motion.

George Galloway, MP for Glasgow Hillhead, said he saw Alastair Campbell, then the political editor of the *Daily Mirror*, with a newly elected MP outside the Commons tearoom. The journalist was urging the MP to put his signature on an early day motion (EDM).

Mr Galloway said he took a special interest in the "perambulations" of Mr Campbell because he regarded him for years as the "hired character assassin" for Robert Maxwell. Mr Galloway suggested that, now Mr Campbell held an important position as chief press secretary to the Leader of the Opposition, "I have to keep these comments to myself". But he said: "My feelings are the same — that a man who could serve with such gusto the greatest thief of the 20th century in this country is the kind of person to be kept a wary eye on."

Mr Galloway was giving evidence on the second day of a High Court action brought by Rupert Allason, Tory MP for Torbay. He is suing Mr Campbell, Mirror Group Newspapers and Andy McSmith, another political journalist, for malicious falsehood and is asking for aggravated damages.

Mr Allason, the author of best-selling spy books written under the pseudonym Nigel West, claims that Mr Campbell was behind a fabricated story that appeared in the *Mirror* in November 1992. The story said that 50 MPs were challenging Mr Allason to hand over to the Maxwell pensioners £250,000 in libel profits he had made from the newspaper.

The Mirror Group acknowledges that the EDM had been drafted by one of its staff but strongly denies malicious falsehood, that there was any malice behind publication or that Mr Campbell wrote the motion or the story.

George Galloway, above, and Alastair Campbell

Jimmy Boyce, the newly elected MP for Rotherham, tabled the motion. Mr Galloway said that his colleague, who had since died, was close to tears and later expressed remorse. Such a motion was "unprecedented in my experience" Mr Galloway added.

Richard Caborn, MP for Sheffield Central, said in evidence that he was buttonholed by David Bradshaw, Mr Campbell's deputy, and asked whether he was prepared to table the motion. Mr Caborn suggested that it should be done by Mr Boyce to give him some experience.

"Later that evening David Bradshaw phoned me about the number of signatures and I assured him that Jimmy Boyce would get 50."

Mr Caborn said he came across Mr Allason haranguing Mr Boyce in the members' lobby after a division. "Jimmy Boyce said that Rupert Allason had said that Alastair Campbell had tabled the motion. He had no idea who Alastair Campbell was."

Charles Wilson, managing director of Mirror Group Newspapers and acting editor of *The Independent*, also gave evidence. He had investigated Mr Allason's complaints.

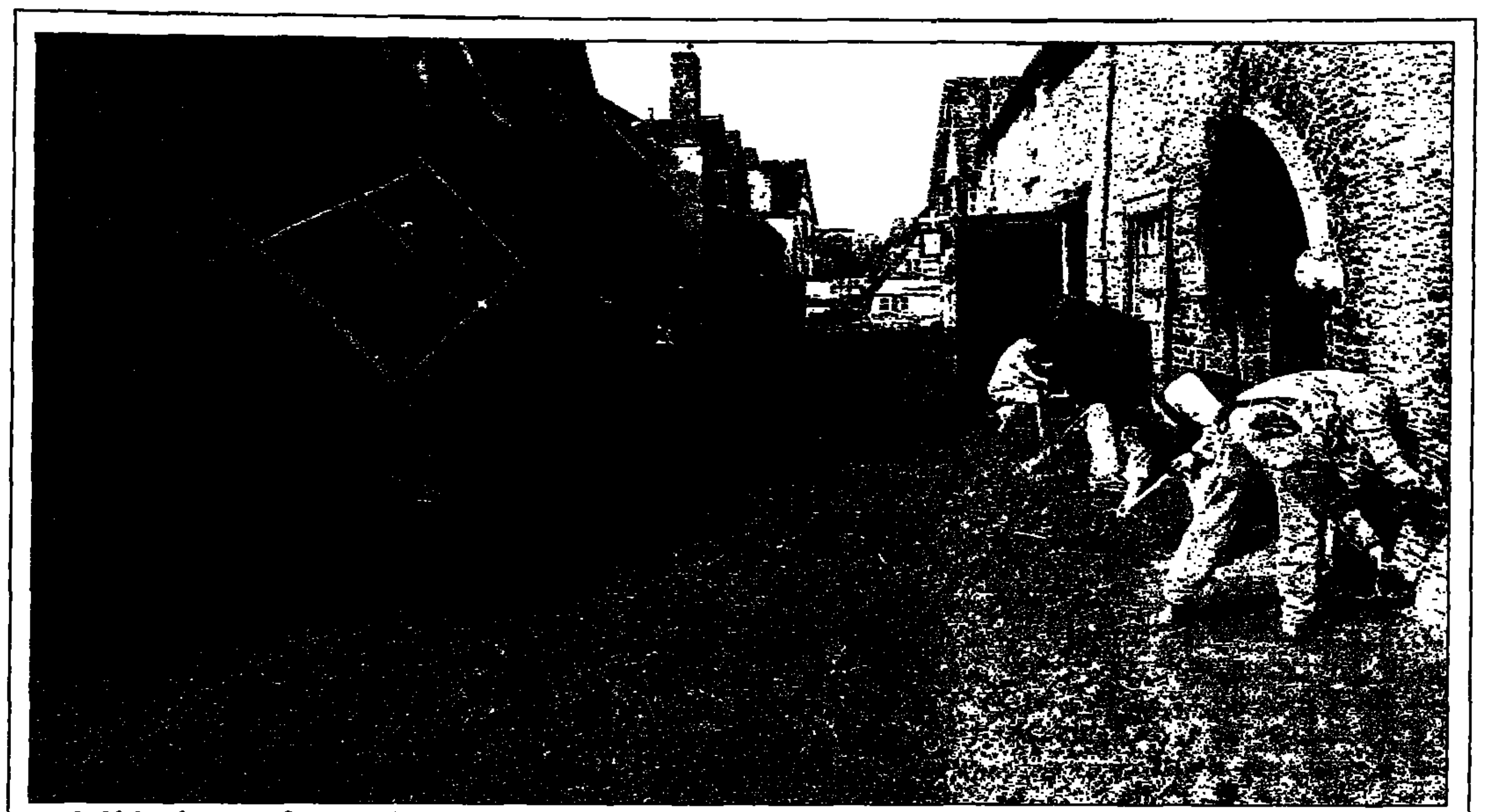
He told the court that he could not recall who drafted the EDM. He told the judge, Sir Maurice Drake, that he had no reason to believe it was Mr Campbell.

Earlier, Mr Allason, concluding his evidence in chief, was questioned closely about his knowledge of Mr Campbell's involvement in drawing up and seeking support for the EDM. The MP had earlier told the court that he had been warned by four people, two MPs and two lobby correspondents, that *Mirror* journalists and Mr Campbell in particular were looking to place the motion on a backbencher.

Mr Allason agreed with Charles Gray, QC, for the *Mirror*, that "he put two and two together to make five" when he concluded that Mr Campbell was the motion's author. He said: "I wouldn't say it was guesswork. I must admit that I couldn't believe that Mr Campbell would be willing to involve other people in this clandestine activity."

Mr Allason admitted that he had subsequently tried to get Mr Campbell sacked from his job as political editor of the *Mirror* and had later boasted around Westminster that he had been successful. He had written a letter to David Montgomery, company chief executive, telling him that there was a remedy "immediately available to you that I invite you to exercise".

The trial continues.



Muddying the name of costume drama: Technicians from *Moll Flanders* try to clean up after rain turned Church Street into a quagmire

Moll flounders in the mud of real-life drama

FILM-MAKERS were a little too successful when they tried to re-create the road conditions of the 18th century in a picturesque National Trust village. They hid the modern surfaces under 70 tons of soil, which promptly turned into a muddy quagmire after unexpected overnight rain.

Yesterday the residents of Lacock, Wiltshire — pop. 1,080 — were furious over the far from special effects of the Granada production of Daniel Defoe's *Moll Flanders*. One said: "The BBC filmed *Pride and Prejudice* here and we never had any trouble with them."

Pride and Prejudice in Lacock: "We never had any trouble with them"

The soil was spread along Church Street in the village, which is standing in for old Colchester. Susan Walker, 86, who has lived in Lacock for half a century, said: "It is terrible. I am completely stuck. I don't dare cross the road for fear of falling over, which means I won't be able to go out to our local pensioners' club.

"Quite a few films have been done here over the years, but it has never been like this. This is a real nuisance. They have blocked the drains off with all that mud, so if we have much more rain my house could get flooded."

Margaret Vaughan, owner of a teashop, said: "I think they were rather stupid putting it all down in the rain. I have 150 old age pensioners coming for lunch today. I don't know how we are going to get them through all this.

"The carpets are so filthy that, when guests come in, they think they have arrived on the mud flats at Weston-super-Mare. I have had to wash all their boots and stockings."

Nick Sandford, a spokesman for the National Trust, said: "Vehicles were skidding quite badly and I was worried that there might be an accident. I understand that film and TV people usually use a mixture of peat and gravel to cover modern roads, but this time they used soil and limestone.

"With the torrential rain overnight, Lacock has been turned into a sea of mud. It is a dreadful mess. The National Trust is not very happy about it. We are talking to Granada and we apologise to all people affected by it."

Defoe's adventure was first published in 1722, telling the story of a criminal heroine and her spiritual awakening. Ironically, the same author had much to say on the muddy state of the nation's roads in his subsequent travel book, *A Tour thro' the Whole Island of Great Britain*.

The new production, a £4 million costume drama, is being filmed at locations around the country, and is scheduled for release later this year. A Granada spokesman said: "Unfortunately we are victims of the weather. It is one of the perils of filming on location rather than in the studio.

"At the moment we are doing everything we can to make the best of a bad situation. Of course, if any damage has been caused by the filming we will pay compensation."

High Court injunction served by e-mail

By Frances Gibb

A LAW firm has broken with centuries of legal tradition by serving a High Court injunction via e-mail.

Schilling & Lom obtained the order from Mr Justice Newman after an individual threatened to distribute libellous material about one of its clients on the Internet. The threats were sent from an e-mail address on the Continent.

Jonathan Coad, a partner with the London law firm, said: "We believe this is a first in Britain. Normally writs or orders have to be served by hand: it can take several days to locate the person and the costs can be huge.

"The civil process of writ-issuing is still bound up in tradition. If you go down to the High Court to issue a writ, it is recorded in leather-bound ledgers by hand." By contrast, the injunction was issued electronically for the cost of a local telephone call.

"This precedent will make the service of proceedings, particularly outside the country, faster and less expensive." Mr Coad said. "It must be the way forward."

Judge says coma woman should be allowed to die

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

JANET JOHNSTON, who has been in a persistent vegetative state for four years after taking an overdose, should be allowed to die, a Scottish judge ruled yesterday.

Lord Cameron of Lochbroom said that Law Hospital in Strathclyde can stop artificially feeding Mrs Johnston, a 53-year-old grandmother.

Lord Cameron said he had taken into account arguments made by lawyers acting in Mrs Johnston's interests that she be kept alive. He had also heard from four independent neurosurgeons that she had no chance of recovery. It would be a dereliction of his duty if he did not allow doctors to stop feeding her.

Mrs Johnston breathes for herself and can open and shut her eyes but she has not responded to any stimuli and has to be fed artificially. Doctors at Law Hospital will wait until any potential appeal has been heard before withdrawing her feeding tube. She will then die of dehydration within 14 days.

Yesterday at his home in Allanton, Strathclyde, Peter Johnston, her husband of 33 years, wept at the decision. He has backed the court case brought by the hospital and wants feeding to be withdrawn. "It is the right decision. I knew it was coming, but it is so hard to take," he said. "Janet was my only love and we were together for 30 years. It will be a big relief when she finally gets peace.

"When I see her for the last time I know what I will do. I will give her a last kiss and a long last cuddle and say 'goodbye darling'. When I see Janet it is so upsetting. I just sit there and hold her hand. But it doesn't make any difference."

Mrs Johnston's brothers, John and George, her husband and her daughter Linda Bryce said in a statement they were "relieved that Lord Cameron has allowed this to happen". Mr Johnston praised the doctors and nurses who have cared for his wife.

Dr John Browning, medical director at Law Hospital, said that, once he had assurances that there would be no appeals, doctors would wait two or three days and then withdraw Mrs Johnston's feeding tube. Any appeal has to be lodged within 21 days.

Janet Johnston: has been in a coma for four years

He said Mrs Johnston would not need painkilling drugs but would be nursed intensively up to the time of her death. Robert Robertson, the hospital's director of nursing, said: "The nursing staff who have cared for for Mrs Johnston 24 hours a day for the past four years support the decision taken."

There are about a hundred patients in a similar state to Mrs Johnston in Scotland and, although her case sets a precedent, the authority of the courts would be needed in each individual case before the patient is allowed to die.

Cardinal Thomas Winning, Archbishop of Glasgow, said he deeply regretted the judgment. "Never before in Scotland has nourishment been equated with medical treatment. Nourishment, which is food, is a right of every human being and to deny food is to starve a person to death — this can never be morally right."

Yacoub defends visit by Princess

By Emma Wilkins

PROFESSOR Sir Magdi Yacoub yesterday defended the Princess of Wales's presence during a heart operation on a seven-year-old boy.

The operation on Arnaud Wambo, sponsored by the children's charity Chain of Hope, was filmed by Sky TV at Harefield Hospital, north London, on Monday. "It is a major misrepresentation to say that it was something to do with a photocall," the professor said.

"It wasn't something that was planned. Sky television were following the child and following the charity. The Princess was supportive to that particular charity and she happened to be there."

Sir Magdi, who waived his fee for the operation, denied widespread suggestions by commentators that the Princess's presence was a distraction or a danger. "We have people who are in charge of infection control. They apply certain criteria which are quite strict."

Harefield Hospital said that Arnaud had been moved from intensive care to a normal ward.

Queen's protest at wealthiest woman claim is upheld

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

THE Press Complaints Commission has upheld the first complaint from the Queen, over a magazine article that claimed she was Britain's wealthiest woman.

In a ruling which could seriously curtail media speculation about the wealth of the Royal Family, the Commission said last night that *BusinessAge* magazine failed to check its facts, made a number of errors and presented speculation as established fact when assessing the Queen's personal fortune at £2.2 billion in an article last September.

The Queen is known to have objected to the magazine's decision to elevate her from seventy-fourth place to first in its annual list of Britain's 500 richest people by including the value of certain royal residences, art treasures and jewellery in its calculations of her fortune. She takes the view that this property is held in trust for the nation and cannot be sold for personal gain.

A spokeswoman for Buckingham Palace said: "The magazine presented an inaccurate and speculative overestimate of the Queen's wealth and it was wrong in many respects." The Queen's complaint represents an increasingly tough approach by the Palace to what it perceives as inaccuracies and invasions of privacy by newspapers.

"Given the increasing public interest in the royal finances generally, we considered it necessary to complain. In our view it is essential that readers have properly researched information," the spokeswoman said.

She said that the Queen's personal wealth was a private matter between her and the Inland Revenue, but added that estimates which valued it "upwards of £100 million" were grossly inaccurate.

In its ruling, the commission did not give an opinion on whether *BusinessAge's* estimate of the Queen's wealth was correct. It concluded that the magazine should have explained the basis for increasing its valuation of the Queen's fortune from £158 million the previous year.

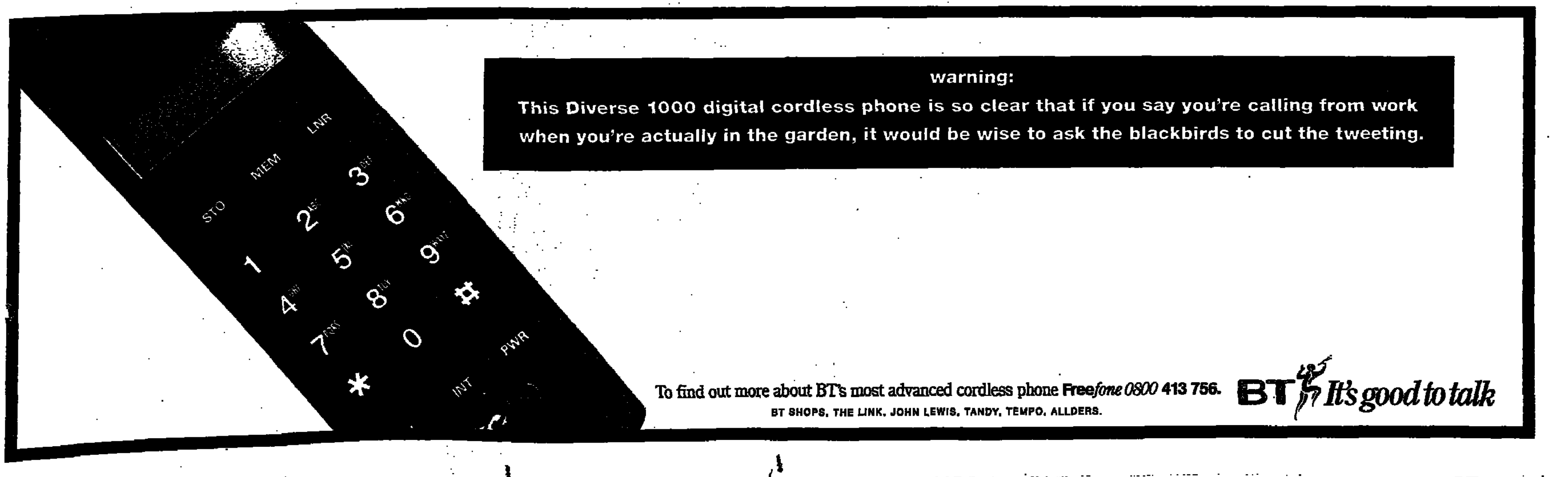
It said that the magazine's failure to check its facts with Buckingham Palace indicated a lack of care and that its research had not been exhaustive. Peter Kirwan, editor of

BusinessAge magazine ranked the Queen first

BusinessAge, maintained that his magazine's valuation of the Queen's wealth was "justified and legitimate" and said that the ruling would restrict freedom of expression. "There will be an increased reticence on the part of journalists to look at all of these issues, which are very topical at the moment," he said.

Mr Kirwan criticised "archaic structures of ownership which are obscured by excessive secrecy" and said that if the Palace was not prepared to enter into a dialogue about the Queen's wealth, he would have no hesitation in publishing the same £2.2 billion valuation next time, although he said that he would include a fuller explanation of how it was arrived at.

Other members of the Royal Family have complained to the commission on three previous occasions and in each case the complaint was upheld.



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Top state school 'is ignoring bullying'

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American chain taps demand for all-day nurseries

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

AMERICA'S largest childcare company will open breakfast-to-teatime nurseries in 20 British towns for children as young as six weeks after huge demand at a *pilot centre in* Cheshire. The KinderCare nursery at Warrington runs from 7.30am to 6.30pm. Bookings for full or part-time places have been so buoyant since it opened almost a year ago that capacity has been increased from 75 to 100.

News *of* the expansion comes in the wake of criticism on Tuesday by the head of a leading independent school. Paddy Holmes, chairman of a 300-strong association of independent schools, said the nation was beginning to treat children like young animals by putting them into nursery schools too soon.

The youngest child who stays all day at the Warrington nursery is three months old. The Alabama-based company, which has 1,300 centres in 38 American states, is *building its* next centre in Luton, Bedfordshire. David Kedwards, its development director, plans to build on five more sites soon from a shortlist of 20, including Bristol, Reading, Swindon, Crawley and Bracknell. "We are tailoring the American experience for the UK," Mr Kedwards said. "We are a genuine all-day nursery, five days a week, 52 weeks a year."

Christine Spencer sent her son Matthew to the Warrington nursery from the age of three months so that she could resume her career as a management accountant. Matthew, now 15 months, is taken *before 9am for breakfast* and collected after 4pm.

Mrs Spencer said: "When children are a bit older. I think it is harder to send them away. I do not think there was any adverse effect. Matthew almost finds it boring if we have a week off. I can understand the criticism, but the present economic climate is such that you cannot easily turn away from a well-paid job."

Sue Jones, the centre manager, said that it was popular with parents who left early to travel to Manchester. "About 80 per cent of our children are in before 8.30am. We are able to take 18 children under the age of one and *all those places* are full, with a waiting list." A full-time baby place costs £112 a week. A full-time nanny can cost up to £250 a week.

Mrs Holmes, head of Ditcham Park School, Petersfield, Hampshire, said yesterday that she did not intend to criticise nursery schools, which were responding to demand. "It is the situation nationally and the lack of government support for working women that I was getting at," she said.

KinderCare carried out three years' research in Britain, which it regards as a huge untapped market, with the *lowest level of pre-school pro*vision in Europe. "The States are ten or 15 years ahead of the game and the childcare industry is a more sophisticated beast," Mr Kedwards said.

The company came to Britain before launching developments in Singapore and Australia because its research concluded *that*, by 2000, 80 per cent of new British jobs would be for women and the number of one-parent families would have increased.

There are no nursery or playgroup places for more than half the country's three-year-olds but Labour is promising to remedy that. The Government *has pledged* to introduce nursery vouchers for three-year-olds "in the medium term", which could stimulate more demand for private places.

Body and Mind, page 18

Sir Christopher Ball, left, director of learning at the Royal Society of Arts and author of *Start Right*, which argued for nursery education from the age of 3, said: "There are strong educational grounds for putting your child into good centre-based learning at 3, 4, or 5 for half a day. At the ages of 2 or 1 it probably does not do any harm, but it may not do any good . . . Under the age of 1, I am quite sure it is a mistake. I would be uneasy about a child in full-time care plus education much before the age of 6."

Margaret Lochrie, left, chief executive of the Pre-school Learning Alliance, said: "For very young children it is probably best to be with their parents. It is possible to provide day care for children of a good quality but it needs high staff ratios and a family-like atmosphere. In those circumstances we are sure the children do not suffer at all. The real problem is the shortage of good-quality care. Young children need individual attention for emotional development. They can get it from people other than their parents."

MARTIN RICKETT

Sue Jones with one of her charges: 80 per cent arrive before 8.30am for breakfast

Top state school 'is ignoring bullying'

By Paul Wilkinson

THE parents of ten children who have allegedly been bullied at a leading state school have withdrawn them and asked Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, to intervene.

They say that little or nothing has been done despite a series of complaints to Harrogate Grammar School in North Yorkshire over the past two years. They also say the school has still to fulfil a requirement to devise a formal anti-bullying policy 16 months after being told to do so.

The school was highlighted last month by Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, as one of 32 "outstandingly successful" secondaries in England and Wales. Liz Carnell withdrew her teenage son John in December 1994 after he was punched in the stomach. She said her complaints to the headmaster, Kevin McAleese, were not dealt with adequately.

Mr McAleese denied that Mrs Carnell's complaints had been ignored and said an investigation by the local education authority had shown the school had acted properly. It was also devising an anti-bullying policy.

Boy of 6 is barred for rejecting ultimatum

By Adrian Lee

A BOY aged six was excluded from school after he refused to sign a contract guaranteeing his good behaviour.

The parents of Andrew Eaton, of Trafford, Manchester, said it was unfair to ask a child so young to enter into such an agreement. His parents also refused to sign the agreement, which required Andrew to keep the classroom tidy, sit quietly and put his hand up before answering a question.

Karl and Heather Eaton described the contract as "an ultimatum" from Wellacre Infants School, which then excluded Andrew for persistent bad behaviour. They claim their son has a condition called Attention Deficit Disorder and should not have been expelled before an assessment.

Andrew was accused of throwing school equipment, biting a teacher, interrupting lessons and attacking other pupils. The contract, with a space to sign his name, included the words: "This is a chance to behave well again. If I break that rule again I will have to work in the corridor. My mum and dad and teachers will be sad."

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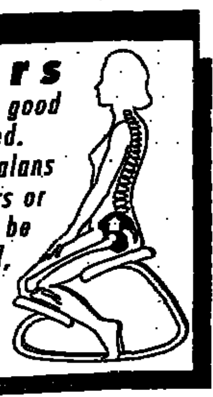

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Hardy's oldest film saved from a fine mess

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE earliest surviving film featuring Oliver Hardy will have its first public screening for almost 80 years tomorrow, after being rescued from a bonfire in Bradford.

The slapstick short *Something in her Eye* was made in 1915, long before Hardy teamed up with Stan Laurel. Film buffs believed it lost years ago until David Oyston, a Laurel and Hardy fan, stopped a former projectionist from burning it.

Mr Oyston, 58, a machine operator from Wilsden, near Bradford, has since undertaken lengthy inquiries to authenticate the film, which has no credits. Experts in America and at the National Film Archive in London have acclaimed it as the oldest extant example of Hardy's film work.

Tomorrow, when it is shown at a film nostalgia evening at Bradford Library, the audience will include Stan Laurel's cousin Nancy Wardell, who lives in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.

The ten-minute single reel was made when Hardy was a 23-year-old solo artist known as Babe, and considerably heavier than in his later films. It tells the story of four amorous young men who think a woman has winked at them, when she has dust in her eye. At first Hardy loses out when a rival drops a scorpion down his trousers, but finally he wins the lady.

A former cinema projectionist in Bradford had decided to burn the film from his collection in 1984, because it was decomposing. Mr Oyston said: "I had a hunch that a tape with the fresh-faced Oliver Hardy was something special. I am a Laurel and Hardy fan, but I am not an expert.

"One-reelers were often used as matinee fillers, but they soon wore out because the projectors were not very gentle with them. Techniques changed and longer films came in, so after a few showings it probably would have been put on a shelf and forgotten about."

The National Film Archive has copied it on to 35mm safety film, and given him a 16mm version which he has now transferred to video tape. Old nitrate film is prone to catch fire and inks in the captions cause it to dissolve.

Glenn Mitchell, who has written extensively about Laurel and Hardy, said: "It is a very important film. Laurel and Hardy fans in America had heard of it but no one knew it still existed."

Oliver Hardy in action: the 1915 film was made before he won his star laurels

Watchdog attacks ITV for emphasis on crime shows

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ITV was criticised yesterday for showing too many drama and factual programmes about crime and the police. The Independent Television Commission said such programmes reflected a lack of originality.

In its review of the main commercial television channels in 1995, the commission complained of the "patchy" quality of "reality" shows such as *Police Camera Action*, based on footage from emergency-service and surveillance cameras.

Peter Rogers, the commission's new chief executive, said that he was concerned about the cumulative effect of the emphasis on crime.

Five of the eight new drama series screened by the network were based on crime, including *The Governor* and *Band of Gold*, as were many one-off pilot shows. "There are a number of things which may seem perfectly acceptable in a single programme, but which can be a problem if they start to accumulate," he said.

Mr Rogers acknowledged that police and crime programmes were popular, but he said they militated against the commission's long-term aim of reducing levels of violence on television. One pitfall, he said, was exposed last November by *Police Action Live!*, a two-hour slot that followed Saturday night police activity in a number of areas. The expected activity and excitement had failed to materialise, Mr Rogers said. "Programmes involving footage of emergency services can be cheap but with this programme everyone was waiting around for something to happen and it never did; all the drunks stayed at home and watched the programme."

Hill: said crime had enduring public appeal

Leslie Hill, chairman of ITV, said that the network's strong crime and police content reflected "the enduring popularity of these subjects with viewers". He pointed out that the ITV series *Cracker*, about a criminal psychologist, was voted best drama for the second year running at the Bafta awards on Sunday.

Clare Mulholland, the commission's director of programmes, said there was concern about invasion of privacy in "reality" programmes. The blurring of people's faces to protect their identity was not always effective. "While it means that people are disguised from those who don't know them, their neighbours and members of their families might recognise them," she said.

The commission also criticised a move away from factual programmes. Education, religious and arts programming was often tucked away in the margins. ITV's entertainment-led output on Saturday evenings was criticised as "tired".

Channel 4 was praised for retaining a "distinctive character" and for its news and factual output, but was criticised for an increase in repeats and a lack of original material. Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of Channel 4, blamed the statutory funding formula, which requires the station to give a proportion of its profits to ITV.

Television, page 48

[illegible] COMPANIES [illegible]

The Independent Television Commission gave this assessment of the commercial terrestrial television services.

Anglia: Significant number of co-productions with Meridian resulted in loss of regional identity. The quality of daytime talk show *Vanessa* diminished by emphasis on sex-related subjects.

Border: Good range of regional programmes.

Carlton: High-quality regional programming, although few innovations. *The Good Sex Guide* denied classification as an educational programme.

Central: Supply to the ITV network increased with successful programmes such as *Thief Takers*. Children's shows commended.

Channel: Weekly programmes for French and Portguese speakers continued to provide a distinctive service.

Grampian: Live coverage of regional football a welcome initiative. Significant improvement in network contributions.

Granada: The single largest supplier to network, with high-quality contributions including *Band of Gold*. The ITC concerned about the decision to move *This Morning* from Liverpool to London.

HTV: Weaknesses in regional programmes for HTV West. Few innovative programme formats and ideas.

London Weekend Television: Programmes supplied to the network, such as *Blind Date*, were high quality but too few new formats and ideas.

Meridian: Coverage of regional arts events less extensive than promised. Disappointing number of contributions to network.

Scottish: Small shortfall in amount of Gaelic programming. Contributions to network, such as *Taggart*, limited in number but of high quality.

Tyne Tees: Co-productions lacked regional identity. New regional entertainment programme, *The Richard Whiteley Show*, dogged by technical flaws and considered unsatisfactory by viewers.

UTV: Audiences for regional news increased in the first full year of ceasefire. Innovations in regional programmes welcomed.

Westcountry: Increase in regional co-productions diluted regionality. However, regional programming praised, particularly *In Our Backyard*.

Yorkshire: Contributions to network of mixed quality. Regional identity diluted by too many co-productions.

GMTV: Standards of news journalism improved during 1995. Children's programmes better but an over-reliance on cartoons and other acquired material. Continued public complaints about violence in *Power Rangers*, which was dropped from weekdays.

Channel 4: *Channel 4 News*, produced by ITN, was commended. Proportion of originally commissioned material declined from 54 to 50 per cent and number of repeats increased, from 40 to 42 per cent of output. Apologies made to the Cabinet minister William Waldegrave for a verbal attack on his wife and children and to Emma Nicholson for invasion of privacy at home by the Lesbian Avengers.

Teletext: Regional news service enhanced. An important gap in the core service filled during year when details of international flight arrivals were added.

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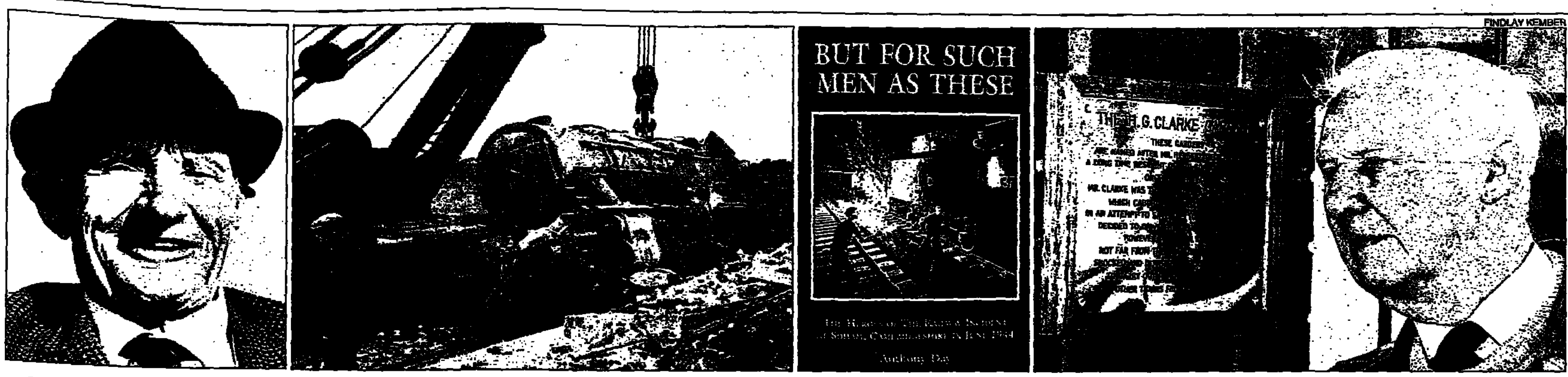

Herbert Clarke helped to prevent a train-load of bombs destroying a Cambridgeshire village in 1944. Although the act was marked by a book, it was not until this week that his son, Arthur, saw his father's heroism recognised officially

Railman who saved village from wartime disaster is honoured

By Robin Young

THE bravery of a wartime railway guard who prevented a train-load of bombs exploding has finally been recognised.

Herbert Clarke, then 59, was on a train which caught fire while transporting 44 500lb high explosive bombs four days before D-Day in June 1944. A spark ignited the first wagon behind the steam-engine tender as the train approached the station at Soham, Cambridgeshire.

Knowing it could explode at any moment, Mr Clarke and the train's fireman, Jim Nightall, 22, spent three minutes unscrewing the hot coupling so that the burning wagon, which contained two bombs packed in straw in wooden crates, could be separated from the rest of the train. The engine driver, Ben Gimbert, then tried to use his steam locomotive to pull the wagon into a siding away from the village, but within seconds the bombs detonated and blew up a gas storage tank. The blast destroyed the station, damaged 600 homes and killed Mr Nightall and a signalman, Frank Bridges, 42.

Mr Clarke, who was blown onto an embankment by the blast, and Mr Gimbert, who suffered serious shrapnel wounds, survived. As soon as he recovered consciousness, Mr Clarke rushed to put signal detonators on the line to warn an approaching mail train that the wagons containing unexploded bombs were on the track ahead. Mr Gimbert was later awarded the George Cross and Mr Nightall was given the same honour posthumously. Years later a road in Soham was named Frank Bridges Close in honour of the signalman, but Mr Clarke, of Ipswich, Suffolk, never received any commendation, even though his injuries left him in a wheelchair for much of his life.

A sense of injustice led his son, Arthur Clarke, to pursue a 34-year campaign to have his father's heroism officially recognised. His efforts finally succeeded this week when, after three decades of writing to British Rail, local councils and the Government, a new communal garden close to Ipswich's first railway station was named H.G. Clarke Gardens by the borough council. A plaque donated by BR was unveiled by the Mayor of Ipswich.

The honour came 20 years after Mr Clarke's death at the age of 90 in 1976. His son, aged 75, from Stowmarket, Suffolk, said yesterday: "My father saved dozens of lives but he was completely bypassed in the honours. I was determined to get him recognition. It is better late than never."

Arthur Clarke's former neighbour, Bernard Dye, 72, who by chance witnessed the blast as he flew overhead in a Lancaster bomber, said: "All the train crew showed remarkable bravery."

Model denies she had affair with 'slimy' millionaire

By Kate Alderson

Oyston: former model hated his aftershave

A FORMER model who claims she was raped by Owen Oyston, a millionaire businessman, yesterday denied having an affair with him. "He came across as being slimy and creepy," she said on the second day of the trial in which Mr Oyston denies raping her and raping and indecently assaulting another teenage model at his country mansion, Claughton Hall, near Lancaster.

"He smells of Obsession aftershave by Calvin Klein. The smell now always makes me feel sick," she told Liverpool Crown Court. She denied she had ever been on affectionate terms with Mr Oyston, chairman of Blackpool Football Club and owner of regional magazines and radio stations. When asked if she had ever said she intended to marry him, she replied: "After he had raped me? That would be absurd."

The woman broke down in tears as Anthony Scrivener, QC, for the defence, questioned her. She sobbed: "They have had private investigators asking my friends when I was ten years old if I was a virgin. They have gone through my personal life with private investigators and reporters turning up ... tearing my whole life apart."

Mr Scrivener said: "Mr Oyston's case is that you were never raped and you had an affair with him that was well known for quite a long period of time." The woman was asked to try to remember exactly when the alleged rape took place, but said she could remember only that it was in 1988. Mr Scrivener asked her if she could remember which day of the week, which month or which season the alleged rape took place. The woman answered "No".

He asked about the differing ages and dates of birth she had given in statements at previous hearings. She told him: "I have always lied about my age. If you ask 100 people, 90 would say women lie about their age. In the modelling business certain clients ask for a certain age so the girls will make out they are younger."

Questioned further by Mr Scrivener about the accuracy of times and dates, she said: "Talk about who is on trial."

Mr Justice McCullough told her: "You have insisted that man in the dock raped you in his house when you were 17. Counsel is exploring where you were and what work you were doing."

The trial continues.

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A northern jewel the Lib Dems have under lock and key

THE Liberal Democrats rule the Harrogate and Knaresborough district council, have held power since 1990; were they to lose every one of the seats up for election next Thursday (they will not) they would retain overall control. Eat your heart out John Major.

Harrogate itself is a jewel of a town with enough parks and greenery to permit crossing from one side to the other without setting foot on Tarmacadam. There is the National Rhubarb Collection at Harlow Carr Gardens (the second "r" in Carr was added to deter folk in search of second-hand Cortinas). The Royal Baths, the thriving conference centre, more antique shops than you can shake a Georgian salver at. Betty's tea rooms — famous for hot cinnamon toast — and the Drum and Monkey restaurant renowned for the freshness of its fish, the allure of its asparagus hollandaise sauce and the fact that it is so permanently booked that you have to put children down for a table at birth.

In 1991 Robert Banks, local MP since 1974, narrowly avoided deselection; in 1995 he did not. The former Chancellor and Euro-sceptic Norman Lamont will stand for the Tories in a constituency diminished in size by the loss of surrounding, largely Tory, rural areas. It will be a tough battle.

The Yorkshire grandees wanted a high-profile representative. They have one. (In fairness it would be hard to present a lower profile than that of Mr Banks, who lives in Suffolk, is considered less than overly bright though scrupulous in turning up for public functions, Remembrance Day parades and pleasing the party whips.)

The elders of the kirk would approve of Lamont's Euroviews for they neither trust nor have affection for people ineligible to play cricket for Yorkshire; though the ex-Cabinet minister's *Spitting Image* persona might be difficult to overcome. The imponderable is whether there are Conservatives who will come out of the woodwork now they have a new candidate.

Lamont has promised to live in Harrogate if elected and his wife's family are from Weatherby — a fact I never heard mentioned when he represented Kingston-upon-Thames. He now goes North every week and there have been sightings of the man on local doorsteps.

I asked him how he was received.

"People are a) pleased and b) surprised."

What are the issues?

"New development is doing nothing to preserve the local character. Conservatives would give value for council tax. Lib Dems have introduced a draconian parking scheme, which my party would liberalise."

Councillor Andy Wright represents 50 per cent of the Labour presence on council. He canvasses nightly, says that the Blair factor is greatly helpful. Labour rejects the concentration of resources to the centre of Harrogate and "we are keen on playgrounds and traffic calming and creating equality between the people who pay council tax and conference visitors on whom the money is spent".

JOAN RUSSELL

Harrogate, where the tea rooms and antique shops are thriving but the Tories are struggling, with no hope of winning control of the council

At Ashdown House in the parade beside the railway station the Lib Dems have their headquarters. They are led by the charismatic Phil Willis — council chairman and prospective parliamentary candidate.

They think they have got it about right, else they would not remain in power; they would like to be able to raise more money, build an exhibition centre to go with the conference centre and compete with Birmingham's NEC but are in no conflict with Conservative councillors other than on sale of housing stock. They would like elaboration on how the Tories would achieve tax cuts and retain services.

Betty's Tea Room was full. I queued for a table, engaged people in the queue in local election talk. None were voters; 80 per cent were foreign visitors. I had hot chocolate and a Fat Rascal, a large nicely spiced currant bun with lots of butter served by a woman dressed in black skirt and white blouse. In his day Alan Bennett would have paid one *shilling* and *ninepence*. My bill was £4.35.

Walking to lunch, I see that signs of the recession remain: well-located shops are to let, houses for sale.

The Drum and Monkey has been full since noon; you can get a brilliant three-course meal for about £12. "If you're not competitive you're dead," says the owner. I get a table, eat oysters (it is my birthday), chat to neighbours.

Harrogate is not the place it was; has lost its genteel image, ceased to be a safe Conservative seat. Lamont is there because it's far enough from Westminster to keep him out of John Major's hair and if he raises his profile and does not soften his anti-Europe stance, he might get in.

The consensus is that the town is now made up solidly of caterers for the conference centre. Just as the theatre struggles because off-duty waiters and chefs don't go there, so is it unlikely that these folk will vote, especially not in local elections. The Drum and Monkey says it is anti-Europe as are all fish restaurants, and they are not that keen on the parking scheme whereby visiting farmers have to spend £4 for a day's parking in town..

"And local farmers are having a bad time, can't afford that?"

"Good heavens no; they're *rolling in it*."

☐ **Saturday: Clement Freud in Stratford-upon-Avon**

HARROGATE FACTFILE

Until this year there were 60 seats on Harrogate council, with 20 being contested at each election. The seats in next week's election were last contested in 1992, when the Tories won 11, the Lib Dems eight and independents one. After by-elections and the transfer of one seat to York, the Lib Dems and Tories are each defending eight and the Independents three.

Present council: Lib Dem 41; Conservative 12; Labour 2; Independent 4.

The council was Tory-controlled until 1991, when it became hung. The Lib Dems took control within a year after a series of by-election victories and have been increasing their strength ever since. Last year they took four seats from the Tories.

The Tories hold both parliamentary seats with substantial majorities. Phil Willis, the council's Liberal Democrat leader since 1992, will stand against Norman Lamont at the general election.

Ashdown issues tax truth challenge

By Alice Thomson, political reporter

PADDY ASHDOWN issued a "truth and trust" challenge over tax last night to both the Government and Labour.

The Liberal Democrat leader said his party will use next month's local elections to fight all "misleading tax promises".

In a speech at Twickenham, he accused the two parties of treating the public with contempt and shattering trust in politics and politicians. He said: "The country cannot have a serious debate about its future, if it cannot have a serious debate about how to pay for things." Labour was accused of acting like frightened rabbits in the headlight of Tory spending attacks.

The Liberal Democrats are also focusing on health during the campaign. Yesterday they produced a survey showing that half of family doctors want to leave medicine for new careers or early retirement.

Almost half the GPs surveyed were "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied" with the job. More than 80 per cent said that they were being asked to meet unrealistic targets.

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Howarth cleared to stand for Labour

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALAN HOWARTH, the MP who defected from the Tory party in October, was last night given the go-ahead by Labour's ruling body to seek a seat at the next election.

Under present Labour rules, parliamentary candidates must have been party members for at least two years before standing for local selection. But yesterday the National Executive Committee agreed to waive the rule for Mr Howarth, MP for Stratford-on-Avon.

The decision followed speculation about whether the Labour leadership would impose Mr Howarth as a last-minute candidate in a vacant seat just before the election.

Yesterday the NEC announced that, after taking legal advice, it had decided to make an exception for Mr Howarth because of his "right and principled stand" in switching from the Tories.

The decision will encourage other Tories who may have considered defecting but were put off by the two-year rule.

Mr Howarth will be able to apply for any of the 15 to 20 winnable seats in the Midlands and northern England still to choose a candidate. He said: "The NEC's decision reinforces the welcome that I have received since joining the party. I recognise it is for local Labour parties to select their Parliamentary candidates. I simply hope that there may be a constituency Labour party that will be willing to consider me."

After a heated debate the NEC also decided by a narrow margin not to hold a fresh ballot to choose the parliamentary candidate for Swindon North.

Last September Michael Wills, a former aide to Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, defeated Jim D'Avila, a union official, by 114 votes to 84. But Mr D'Avila took legal action to secure a fresh ballot amid claims of vote-tampering. A Labour party report found that the procedure had been "fundamentally flawed".

Last month a High Court judge upheld the party's right to impose a candidate. The NEC voted by 14 to 12 yesterday to appoint a special panel to interview the shortlisted candidates again.

Alan Howarth after being welcomed to the Labour Party by Tony Blair last year

Tory MPs demand moral basis for divorce law

BY ALICE THOMSON AND JAMES LANDALE

TORY backbenchers led the attack on the Government's divorce reforms yesterday, claiming that they would cause a big increase in marital breakdowns.

Edward Leigh, a former Trade Minister, urged the Government to scrap plans to introduce no-fault divorces after one year. He admitted that Parliament could not stop the disintegration of marriages but said it could lay down the "moral cornerstone".

He said the Lord Chancellor's Bill gave divorce on demand and people would be able to prove irretrievable breakdown of marriage just by saying, "I divorce you".

"The concept of fault should be retained not because we want to say 'you are guilty, you should admit it' and build up bitterness in a marriage. But it serves a purpose sometimes to say: 'I'm sorry, I was wrong'. We all know if you try to solve problems on the basis of no pain, no shame, no apology, perhaps it will make it even more difficult to start again and rebuild a relationship."

Although the main purpose of the Bill was to try to get rid of acrimony in divorce proceedings, as presently drafted it would not achieve that aim.

"If you bring in no-fault divorce, what about the bitterness of the injured party?"

He also gave a warning of the "catastrophic effects" of divorce on children. "Our law in this area for the best part of 2,000 years has been based on our Judaeo-Christian inheritance. Do we this afternoon wish to sweep that all away?"

Dame Angela Rumbold, a vice-chairman of the Tory party, said the Bill should concentrate on making the marriage contract more solid, not less. "Is the message we really want to give to the nation that marriage vows mean nothing?"

Sir Michael Neubert, a former Tory minister, said: "The removal of fault is equal to saying there is no contract, therefore there can be no breach of contract."

Elizabeth Peacock, Tory MP for Batley and Spen, said: "What's being proposed is that a couple gets married on a Saturday and if on the same day they take out a finance agreement for 24 months, they have a firmer commitment to that finance agreement than to the marriage, and it's nonsense."

But **Patrick Nicholls**, Tory MP for Teignbridge and a former divorce lawyer, disagreed. "One thing I learnt fairly quickly was that the pit of misery and unhappiness which two people locked in deadlock in matrimony can cause each other is absolutely bottomless," he said.

He said he understood why Mr Leigh wanted to reintroduce the fault concept. But he had seen how fault was used. "In practice, if you have to produce a fault, you will pull, as if out of a hat, a fault."

Timothy Devlin, Tory MP for Stockton South, who has divorced and remarried, told Mr Leigh his argument was based on a fundamental fallacy. "Currently, the actual round for divorce is irretrievable breakdown of the mrriage, which is merely proved in five different ways, including fault. So at the moment, we already have no-fault divorce," he said.

Sir Edward Heath, Father of the House, rejected Mr Leigh's demand for a restoration of fault in divorce proceedings. "It breeds perpetual discontent and affects the children in particular." He added that religious MPs should be wary of imposing their beliefs on the public.

John Patten, the former Education Secretary, said the number of divorces would equal the total of marriages in 2020 if the Bill went through.

Michael Alison, Tory MP for Selby and a Church Commissioner, said: "It is a eunuch of a Bill in relation to fault. All we ask is that the reality of fault is specified, put up front . . . so that reconciliation can get to work and be effective."

Leigh: concept of fault should be retained

Nicholls: need to blame leads to "pit of misery"

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: backbench debates; education and employment questions; Family Law Bill, committee; National Health Service (Residual Liabilities) Bill, remaining stages. In the Lords: Law Reform (Year and a Day Rule) Bill, second reading; Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill, committee.
TODAY in the Commons: questions to Home Office ministers and the Prime Minister; Rating (Caravans and Boats) Bill, Lords amendments; Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill, remaining stages. In the Lords: Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations) Bill, all stages.

Crusading spirit of times past that new Labour lacks

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Many Labour supporters regard the next election as primarily an opportunity to end the long Tory era rather than as the start of the New Jerusalem. Expectations are low, and have been deliberately lowered by Tony Blair to avoid later disappointment and charges of betrayal.

There is no sense of a crusade. The contrast with the mood before the Labour victories of 1945 and 1964 is highlighted in a series of essays by a group of Labour sympathisers, academics and industrialists entitled *What Needs to Change*, edited by the Labour MP Giles Radice. It complements the recent insider analysis, *The Blair Revolution*, by Peter Mandelson and Roger Liddle, and *Options for Britain*, a series of essays on policy options produced after a Nuffield College conference last year.

The new book reflects the realist/pragmatic strand in centre-left thinking on everything from the new working environment (Charles Handy), via competitiveness (David Sainsbury) to crime and punishment (Stephen Tumim) with level-headed views on health, education and Europe. The emphasis is mainly on lessening the social divisions produced by the Thatcher-Major years rather than big leaps forward. The authors believe that the State can have a beneficial role, but in a more limited way than before the 1980s.

Lord Young of Dartington, the author of Labour's 1945 manifesto, argues that the party's victory then was built on three coalitions — the first of ideas between the working-class socialist tradition and Liberals like Keynes and Beveridge; the second between radicalims and patriotism; and the third between intellectuals, thinkers and planners on the one hand, and practical politicians on the other. He believes a coalition of ideas is to some extent in place now, but argues that the Left has not come to terms with the radical policies needed to provide more jobs and greater security. I am less sure that there is wide support for big shifts in policy as opposed to to a change of party in office.

Peter Hennessy, a contemporary historian and enthusiast for the Attlee era, notes that "both 1945 and 1964 were moments enthused with genuine hope, hope that well-designed schemes drawn up by sensible politicians, officials and intellectuals would be the beneficial escalator to necessary change, higher productivity and greater social justice". But, in contrast to these periods, "we are now locked into the politics of pessimism". Government has lost much of its authority. Yet, as Professor Hennessy argues, Mr Blair has "the priceless advantage that expectations are so low". So even making things a little better would be welcome.

The main exception to new Labour's caution is its wide-ranging proposals on constitutional change. These both unite a wide range of opinion on the Centre-Left and divide the opposition parties from the Government. The practial difficulties raised by both the broader reform agenda and House of Lords reform in particular are discussed in the first two reports this morning from the Constitution Unit, a research project staffed by former civil servants. The reports provide the fullest discussion so far of the political and parliamentary issues raised by these reforms. They show both what changes may be needed to parliamentary procedrures and how reform of the Lords goes much further than excluding hereditary peers. Anyone who believes reform will be simple and quick should read the reports and think again.

These changes could affect the whole legislative programme of a Blair government. As Professor Hennessy writes in relation to the broader prospects for Labour, it "cannot risk the Centre-Left being tainted once more (and perhaps permanently) by the stain of drift and incompetence".

☐ *What Needs to Change*, (HarperCollins; £14.99). The two Constitution Unit reports are £10 each from 4 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RA.

PETER RIDDELL

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Cleaner Thames lures elusive otter towards London

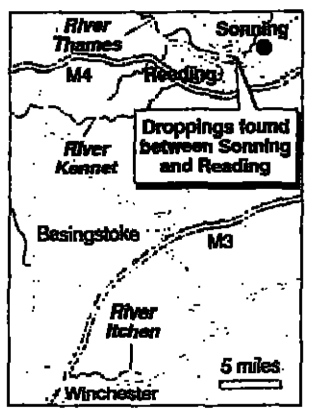
By Nick Nuttall, environment correspondent

AN OTTER has been exploring the Thames just 40 miles upstream from London for the first time in three decades. The finding confirms a dramatic improvement in water quality, raising hopes that the animals could be back in the capital during the next century.

The otter spotted near Reading is thought to have been a male marking out territory for possible recolonisation, after travelling in from Hampshire or Warwickshire.

The animals disappeared from vast areas of the country with the onset of chemical pollution in the early 1960s and are classified as an endangered species. *Britain is now* believed to be the only nation in western Europe where the otter population is increasing.

Mark Satinet, an otter project officer with the Government's Environment Agency, found otter droppings, or spraints, on the river bank near Reading, after a member of the public reported that an otter had been seen in the river. More spraints have been found over the past two weeks between Reading and Sonning. The findings are *some 30 miles further down*stream than previous sightings on tributaries in the Cotswolds.



Alistair Driver, conservation manager for the agency's Thames Region, said yesterday that the discovery was *"great news — it shows that* water quality is good, that the right kind of habitat exists and that there is plenty of food available for otters".

Mr Driver said they believed the otter, *Lutra lutra*, was probably a male in search of new territory. He believed it was probably feeding on coarse fish such as roach and bream, but also amphibians such as frogs and toads. Otters can also eat eggs and fledglings.

Dr Don Jeffries, a former *member of the Joint* Nature Conservation Committee, has been carrying out a nationwide survey of otters on behalf of the Vincent Wildlife Trust. He said the finding increased hope that otters would be frolicking in the river at Westminster by the early 21st century: "They were in the Thames in central London in the 1800s. One was even killed in St John's Wood."

Populations of otters crashed all around England in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Numbers were reduced by otter hunts with dogs, but scientists and wildlife experts believe that the introduction of pesticides such as DDT and dieldrin poisoned them. These chemicals are banned and, despite being highly persistent, residual amounts found *in fish and rivers are return*ing to levels low enough for otters to survive.

The Vincent Wildlife Trust survey, which will be published in May, indicates that 7,500 otters are alive in Britain, with the main concentrations in Scotland, the Shetlands and Wales.

North American mink, escaped from fur farms, have been linked with the animal's *decline*, but *the survey indi*cates that, as water quality improves, otters push out *mink from sites*.

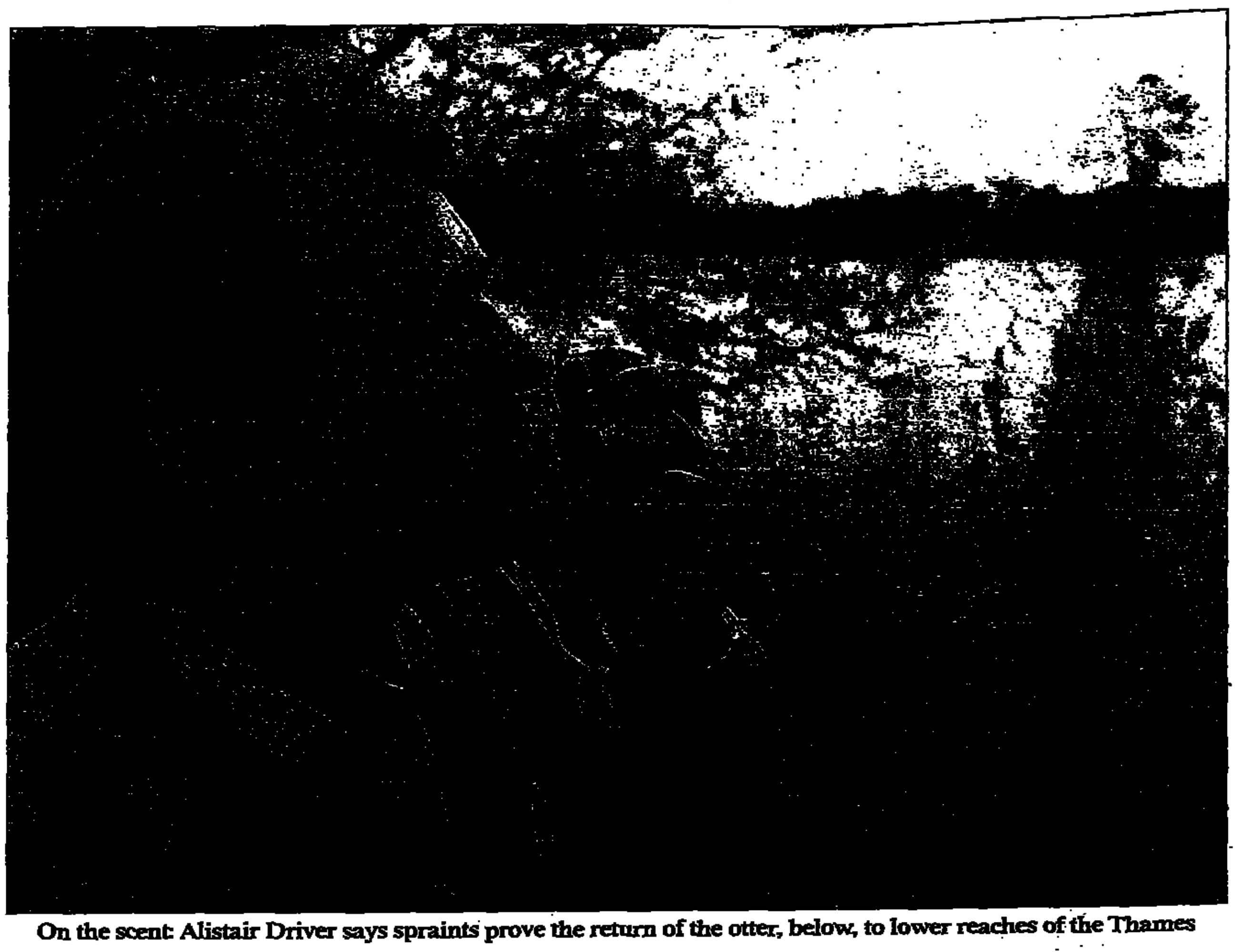
Dr Jeffries said that otters had begun recolonising areas such as Suffolk, the west country and Hampshire in recent years. The Thames and it lower reaches have remained a lofty ambition for conservationists.

Experts suspect that the Reading otter might have entered the Thames via the rivers Kennet, Pang and Enborne from a population in the River Itchen in Hampshire. *It might also have made* its way from the Avon at Stratford.

The nocturnal animals are rarely seen by humans. They can travel up to ten miles cross-country to move from one river catchment area to another. They can travel over 400 yards under water at more than 7mph.

Dr Jeffries said there may be more than one otter near Reading. Males tend to leave extensive marks such as those found only to stake out territory when there are rivals in the area. He said the lessons on *re-introductions, habitat man*agement and conservation learnt in Britain might prove *invaluable to countries such* as the Netherlands, Germany and France.

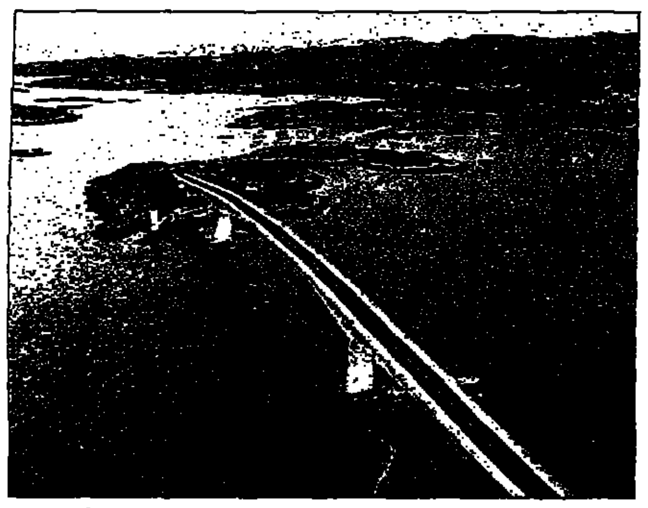
Leading article. ..



On the scent: Alistair Driver says spraints prove the return of the otter, below, to lower reaches of the Thames

IAN BEAMES

Born Free bid revives dream of wildlife haven on author's isle

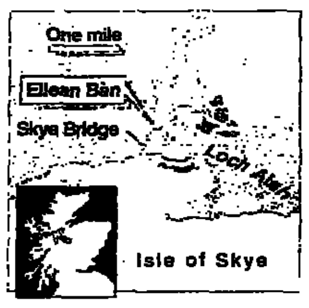


Eilean Ban, now bisected by the Skye Bridge

By Gillian Bowditch

THE last island home of Gavin Maxwell, author of *Ring of Bright Water*, was hastily withdrawn from sale *yesterday after the Born Free* Foundation came up with a proposal to turn *it* into an *otter sanctuary*.

Eilean Ban, the "White Island" that Maxwell intend*ed to turn into a wildlife* haven, was due to be auctioned in Glasgow yesterday by the Scottish Office, which had placed a reserve price of £40,000 on it.



But ministers withdrew it at the last minute after the Born Free Foundation, which was established by the husband and wife team of Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna, stars of the film *Ring of Bright Water*, submitted details of its conservation plans.

Ring of Bright Water tells how Gavin Maxwell acquired a pet otter, gave up his job in London and moved to a remote cottage in the Western Highlands.

Yesterday William Travers, the son of the founders and now a director of the foundation, said: "An otter sanctuary *is one option we are looking* at. It would be nice if we could fulfil some of the plans which Gavin Maxwell had for the island before his death. We want to look at the island in *the holistic sense and from a* historical perspective."

The tiny island between Kyle of Lochalsh and the Isle of Skye would hardly be recognised by Maxwell today. *It had remained unchanged* for centuries until the Scottish Office bought it as a prop for the Skye Bridge. Now the bridge cuts in half the 2½-hectare island. Lorries and coaches thunder past the cottage where Maxwell watched his otters. Protesters opposed to the tolls on the Skye Bridge *occupied the island this week* and had planned to disrupt the sale.

Mr Travers said he would ask environmental consultants to report on whether the *foundation's plans for the* island were feasible, given the presence of the bridge.

Eilean Ban was *home to* Maxwell for 18 months before his death from cancer in 1969. *His white-washed* slate-roofed cottage still stands but has been allowed to fall into disrepair. Teko, Maxwell's last otter, is buried on Eilean Ban, where an inscribed stone commemorates the animal.

Richard Frere, who visited Maxwell regularly and who wrote the biography *Maxwell's Ghost*, said: "I think he particularly liked Eilean Ban because it was a small, heathery island and very wild.

"It was completely without grass and reminded him of his childhood home at Elrig in the Borders. He was trying to encourage eiders on the *island and had plans to open* it as a small wildlife sanctuary, but then he became ill and *the plans* were shelved. When he died I had to sell the cottage and the land to pay some of the debts."

Teacher fined for lab blast

A science teacher was fined £1,100 for an experiment that injured *two* pupils. Peter Beagan, 50, poured water into a jar, not realising there was a *chemical residue inside, and it* exploded. Two pupils aged 15 at Rhyl High School, Colwyn, were treated for *burns*, Prestatyn magistrates were told. Beagan, of Gronant, has been suspended *since the inci*dent in May. He admitted failing to follow guidelines and exposing pupils to risk.

Viscount's injury

Viscount Weymouth, 21, who was injured in the collapse of a hostel in Delhi that killed his girlfriend, best friend and 15 other people, is being detained in hospital with injuries to the vertebrae in his neck. His family had hoped that he might fly home soon.

Team spirit

Manchester United is to sell an "own label" whisky, featuring its Red Devil coat of arms, in bars at Old Trafford. Alcohol watchdogs fear that the brand, which will also be available at supermarkets and off-licences, could encourage under-age drinking.

Two charged

Two men were charged with the murder of Kathleen Hempsall, 40, a midwife found stabbed to death in her home in Lincoln 19 months ago. Perry Calvert, 20, and Alan Boulter, 20, both from the Lincoln area, will appear before magistrates on June 3.

DIY death

A man was killed by an electric shock as he tried to fix his washing machine. Julie Goulding, 30, said her husband Mark, 32, had refused to call in *professionals* when the machine broke down in their Bristol home, flooding the floor with water.

Under a cloud

Firemen were called to a fire station when burnt toast set off *the alarm bells*. A *toaster* caused clouds of smoke after crews left Cardiff central fire *station on an emergency*. Office staff were evacuated until a crew from nearby Roath unplugged the toaster.

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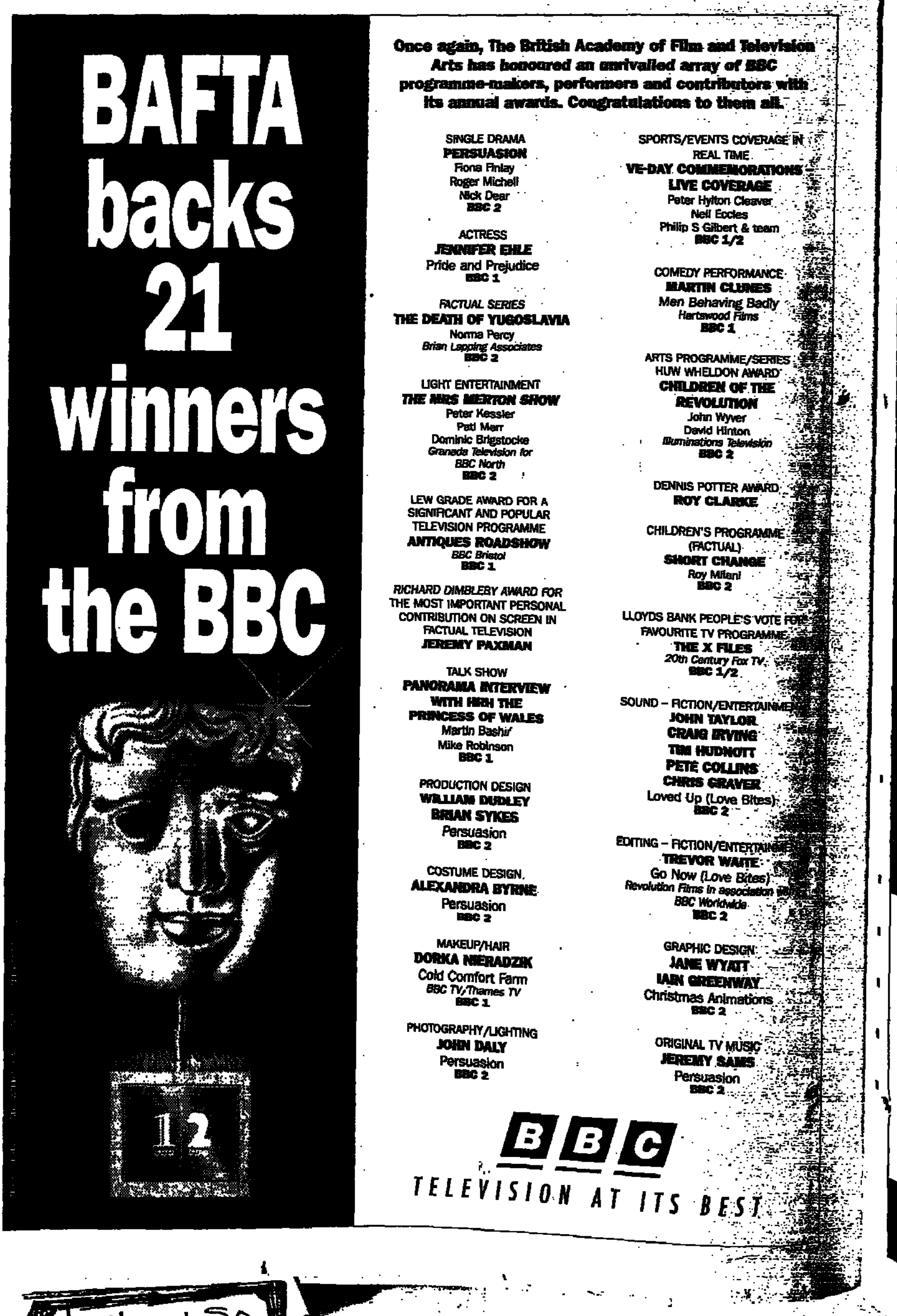

BAFTA backs 21 winners from the BBC

Once again, The British Academy of Film and Television Arts has honoured an unrivalled array of BBC programme-makers, performers and contributors with its annual awards. Congratulations to them all.

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JEREMY PAXMAN

TALK SHOW
PANORAMA INTERVIEW WITH HRH THE PRINCESS OF WALES
Martin Bashir
Mike Robinson
BBC 1

PRODUCTION DESIGN
WILLIAM DUDLEY
BRIAN SYKES
Persuasion
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ALEXANDRA BYRNE
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JOHN DALY
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COMEDY PERFORMANCE
MARTIN CLUNES
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'We are staying in Europe, but what kind of Europe?'

Excerpts from the Prime Minister's speech to the Institute of Directors yesterday

FOR the last 30 years Europe has been the great explosive issue of British politics. Our membership of the EC was confirmed in a referendum in 1975. Today there are still some that question that membership in each political party, and in the press.

I understand the concerns and frustrations that lead to that questioning. For years past some have portrayed Europe in only the most negative terms. Every frustration is played up, often inaccurately. Every benefit denied at worst or ignored at best.

But I also see clearly the hard-headed benefits that Britain has gained. And as Prime Minister, I believe it does the country no service to suggest that the only choice we face is either to go along with every demand our partners make, or head for the exit. That is naive and damaging — and just plain wrong.

We are in Europe, and we all know we are staying in Europe. Anyone who seriously thinks of leaving should explain what that would mean. What would be the impact on inward investment, which accounts for three quarters of a million jobs in manufacturing alone? Would the Nissans and the Toyotas and the Samsungs still come here? What would be the effect on the City and our great exporting companies if we left?

> ‘What would be the effect on exporting companies if we left?’

How would we feel as the EU grew to span the whole continent? Would we be taken more seriously or less in the wider world?

Some suggest we could just negotiate a trading relationship with Europe. But frankly the idea that if we were outside the EU we could somehow become a trading haven on the edge of Europe with all the benefits of that vital market of 370 million — while others fix the rules without any regard at all to our national self-interest — is Cloud-cuckoo-land.

This country is an international trading nation, it is not a little England and must never become so. So the first point is, we are staying in Europe. The second is: what sort of Europe?

Some politicians in Europe do have a political agenda of ever greater integration, to subsume nation states into common institutions, in order to prevent the re-emergence of old national ambitions and rivalries. They believe in that integration as passionately as we oppose it.

I understand and respect these views. They reflect the long experience of wars and conflicts across the Continent. But I do not believe they are the right way to develop European co-operation. The nation state lends security, comfort, and familiarity, and people need that more than ever at a time of change and insecurity.

If we ignore those realities, we would increase rather than reduce conflicts and tensions across Europe. We would set at risk all that Europe has achieved. So we are not going down the centralising route.

But I do not seek confrontation. Nor do I expect it. In negotiation, the EU can be tough but, in the end, it must respect and accept the vital interests of all its members.

My personal view is clear. Although there are many things in Europe we would like to change, there is a lot that helps us. Not every decision is exactly what we would have liked: but neither is every decision comfortable for every other country. We aim to build a Europe that is more in our image. If we win the arguments to build a Europe of nation states, all of Europe will benefit. Equally, if others choose to go in a direction that we reject, they need to recognise that we will stand our ground and will not follow them.

We have nothing to gain if the market on our doorstep goes into decline. And if it does not put competitiveness at the top of its agenda, it will decline. That's why I regret so much that Europe has not yet completed the single market.

Europe as a whole is never going to compete and win in the world if it cannot even bear competition in its home market. So Europe must proceed to complete the single market as soon as possible.

The difference between our employment costs and Europe's is stark. For every £100 he pays in wages a British employer has to add £18 in non-wage costs. Quite enough. But in Germany it is £32, in Spain £34, in France £41, and in Italy £44. That's a measure of the cost of excessive regulation.

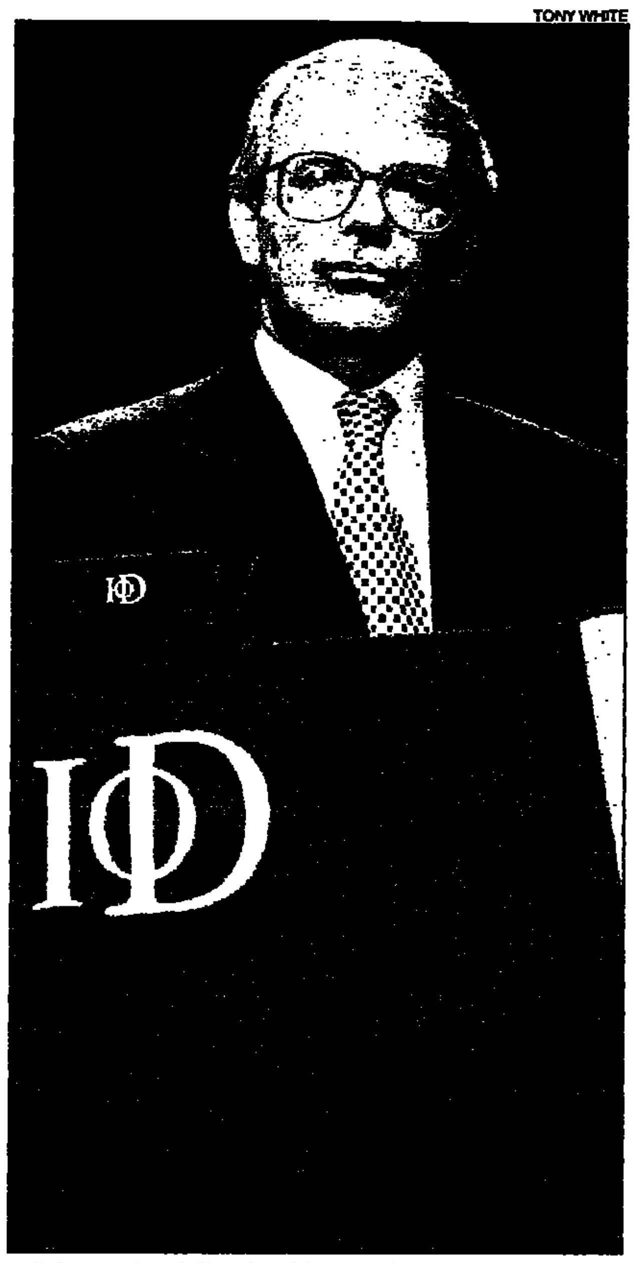
And that cost is why it would be against our interests to be part of the Social Chapter. It is not just what is in the Chapter now; it is also a question of what would go in it if we signed it. The Social Chapter is not a finite list of specific measures.

Just ask yourself: if all of Europe were in the Social Chapter, wouldn't it be more tempting — and less painful — to try to foist the same rules on everyone, rather than put your own house in order? Of course it would, and that's why we shouldn't sign it. The Social Chapter could make jobs one of our fastest growing export businesses.

At Maastricht I negotiated an opt-out from the Social Chapter. That opt-out will remain.

Mr President, I want Europe to succeed. But I don't believe it will unless it faces the tough decisions necessary to win in tomorrow's world. Paying lip-service to the free market isn't good enough. You need the strength of conviction and belief to trust it and let it work without unreasonable fetters. You have to be able to bear the fire of short-term unpopularity to win long-term success.

TONY WHITE



John Major delivering his speech on Europe at the Institute of Directors in London yesterday

Bundesbank lectures EU single-currency laggards

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

EUROPEAN Union countries last year slipped further away from the Maastricht single-currency targets, according to the German Bundesbank.

"In order for convergence criteria to be met in 1998, it is imperative that the groundwork be appropriately laid," Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, wrote in a preface to the annual report, published yesterday.

The Bundesbank will be the single most important German voice in determining whether European states have met the convergence criteria on the basis of 1997 performance. The report showed that it is taking seriously its role as umpire.

Britain, measured by the Bundesbank's 1995 figures, did not meet two of the four Maastricht criteria. The inflation rate of 3.5 per cent (or 3 per cent at the partly harmonised consumer price index) was above the 2.7 per cent target. Public indebtedness as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) was improving but, at 5.1 per cent, was still above the Maastricht target of 3 per cent. However, the yield on long-term public bonds in Britain was well within the Maastricht ceiling, and so too was gross public debt as a percentage of GDP.

The Bundesbank concentrated on prodding European states that are keen to sign up for monetary union but are still lagging behind. Six countries, including Britain, missed the inflation target but the bank notes that everybody had made "notable progress".

It says: "Far less satisfactory was the progress towards consolidating public finances. Most member states made some impact on their budget spending in 1995, but only three countries — Denmark, Ireland and Luxembourg — succeeded in bringing their state indebtedness below the 3 per cent deficit criterion."

The main thrust of the report was to urge Germany to cut radically its public spending. Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, is aiming for cuts of more than £20 billion and was trying yesterday to win the acceptance of trade unions for some of his more drastic proposals.

Only Germany, France, Britain and Luxembourg met the gross public debt criterion at a maximum of 60 per cent of gross domestic product. The Bundesbank was at its most schoolmasterly on this issue. "Rather than putting in periodic efforts, it is essential that convincing and credible concepts be worked out to ensure permanent savings," it said.

The Bundesbank also said the current 15 per cent fluctuation margins for currencies in the European exchange rate mechanism should not be used to gauge whether a country was ready to join European monetary union. "The currently applicable fluctuation margin of plus or minus 15 per cent cannot by any means be taken as a measuring stick," it said. The report reminded aspirant members of the monetary union that they must first be members of the ERM and have maintained "normal fluctuation margins" for at least two years.

The report comes amid a fierce internal German debate about the future of monetary union. Herr Kohl insists that the convergence criteria and the start-up date for monetary union must be strictly adhered to.

However, most bankers and economic experts claim that there will have to be a choice between diluting the criteria or delaying the start-up date.

The debate was fuelled yesterday by Professor Ernst-Moritz Lipp, a director of the Dresdner Bank, who said he was convinced that neither Germany nor France would be able to meet the deficit criterion in 1997. He was sure, however, that monetary union would go ahead on schedule in both countries.

"If [they] do not fulfil the deficit criterion, then there will certainly be a discussion as to whether 3.5 per cent or 3.8 per cent is sufficient to meet the entry criteria." He said that Germany and France would not allow monetary union to fail because of a marginal divergence from one of the Maastricht targets.

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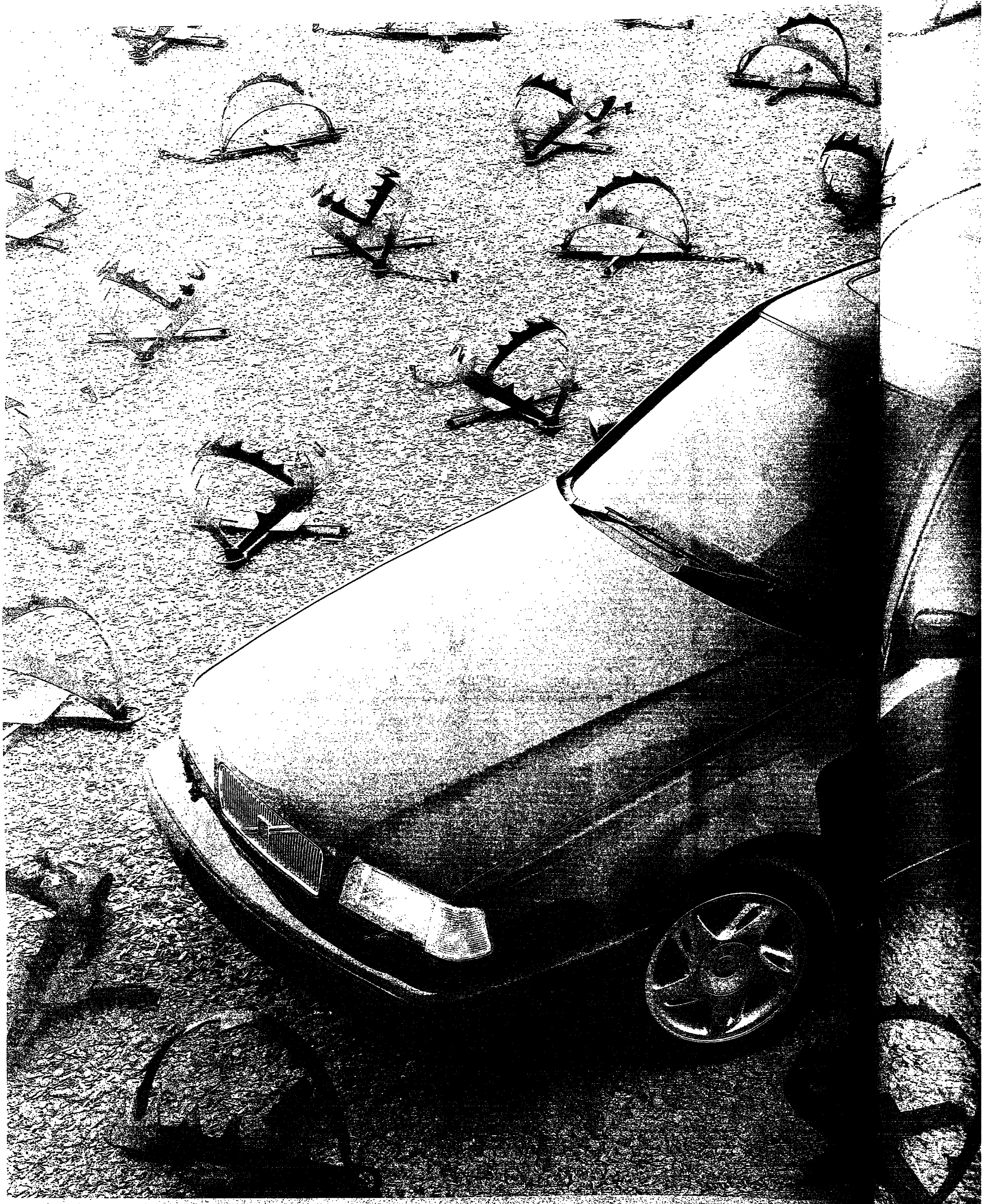

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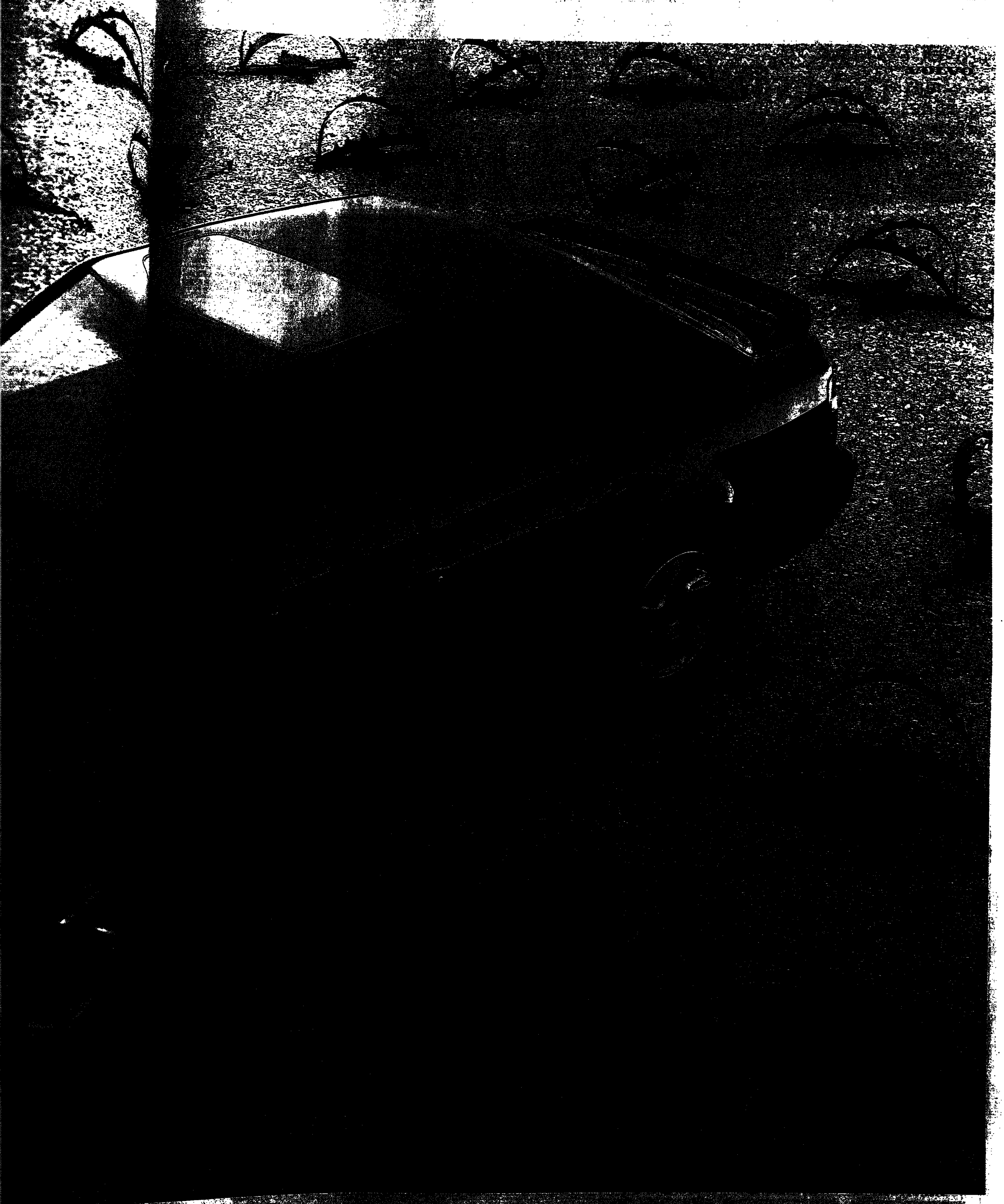

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Russians recycling weapons systems

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

THE cream of Russia's defence engineers continue to devise advanced weapons concepts, but with little chance of ever getting the new designs into production, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

The "allegedly new designs", introduced since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, were almost always modifications of existing systems.

In its annual survey of security-related events around the world, the London-based institute said the rapid decline of the former Soviet military-industrial system appeared to have passed "the point of technical collapse".

"With only a handful of exceptions, the broad capabilities that sustained the Soviet Union throughout the Cold War have virtually disappeared ... what remains is a huge industrial potential to mass-produce weapons of 1970s and early 1980s vintage," the IISS survey said.

Russian engineering teams "retain the ability to promote highly advanced weapons concepts and, in some cases, they can delineate innovative designs, but the ability actually to produce sophisticated new weaponry has all but disappeared".

The IISS survey said: "Development is proceeding on a completely new tank and on other systems, including a Stealth fighter, but there is no evidence of the industrial wherewithal to take such plans beyond the prototype stage."

With its entire defence budget for 1996 planned at 80,000 billion roubles (£11.13 billion), there were minimal funds for production. Only about 20,000 billion roubles were available for equipment procurement.

"Much of this budget must be spread thinly to sustain over five million workers still employed by over 2,000 defence plants," the survey said.

To help sustain the aerospace industry, Russia was dependent on winning export sales.

☐ *Strategic Survey 1995/96*, Oxford University Press, £20.

Death of Dudayev leaves Chechens in power vacuum

From Richard Beeston in Moscow

A BITTER and possibly bloody power struggle is expected among top Chechen guerrilla chiefs as the rebel movement tries to fill the power vacuum left by the death of its leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev.

The breakaway republic has announced three days of mourning for Dudayev, 52, who died during an airstrike on Sunday night near the village of Gekhi Chu, 20 miles south of Grozny. As he was buried yesterday, many Chechens were already wondering which of the disparate group of mountain fighters would emerge to head the independence struggle.

The rebel authorities, who control a string of villages south of the capital, Grozny, and the sympathy of most Chechens, have announced that Dudayev's deputy, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, will lead the movement for now.

The burly former writer, 44, is best known for his unwavering loyalty to Dudayev and his hardline views, rejecting compromise with Russia. Yesterday he vowed to continue the fight. "The tragic death of the first President of Chechenia has not broken the Chechen people and it is ready to continue ... its struggle," Tass quoted him as saying.

Yandarbiyev: named as temporary successor

However, Mr Yandarbiyev is not considered powerful enough militarily or influential enough among clan leaders to head the separatist movement at a critical period, when it must decide whether to fight or negotiate.

The two Chechen commanders expected to emerge as leaders are Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff of the rebel forces, and Shamil Basayev, the popular and flamboyant field commander. In an interview earlier this month with the daily newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, Mr Maskhadov, a former Soviet army officer, confirmed his moderate views and willingness to negotiate with Russia.

"This war is useless. There can be no victors. We must look at the future realistically," he said. The commander, credited with building the Chechen forces into one of the most formidable guerrilla armies of modern times, distanced himself from terrorist operations and said he was willing to resume peace efforts broken off last summer.

In contrast Mr Basayev, who commanded the raid into the southern Russian town of Buddennovsk last summer, is totally uncompromising and has given repeated warnings that he is prepared to resort to terrorist acts inside Russia unless its forces pull out.

The leadership battle will depend to a large extent on how the Kremlin responds to Dudayev's death. President Yeltsin, who arrived in China yesterday, said the peace drive would go on. "With or without Dudayev, all the same we will settle everything in Chechenia peacefully," he told Tass.

Last month the President announced a peace initiative to end the 16-month conflict, which envisaged a partial pull-out of Russian forces and talks via an intermediary. If the Russian leader is serious, and can rein in bellicose generals, Dudayev's removal could give him the chance to reopen dialogue. A deal before June's presidential elections would be a huge asset. But there is a real fear that the rebel movement could splinter into rival groups.

Assault may force Gorbachev to quit

By Richard Beeston

RUSSIA'S presidential election campaign turned violent yesterday when Mikhail Gorbachev, 65, the former Soviet leader, was attacked. According to police, a drunken man who claimed Mr Gorbachev's *reforms cost him his job, hit him in the face as he made his* way to address a largely hostile meeting in the western Siberian city of Omsk.

Although Mr Gorbachev's aides initially called the incident an "assassination attempt", police described it as "hooliganism" and said the man, 29, was unemployed and had psychological problems.

The architect of the 1980s perestroika reforms was shaken but not hurt. Cancelling his speech, he returned to Moscow on the first flight available. Aides called the attack a deliberate move by "political provocateurs" to intimidate Mr Gorbachev and force him out of the campaign.

"From the very beginning, the authorities have displayed their negative attitude," said Georgi Ostroumov, a Gorbachev Foundation spokesman who claimed the authorities had imposed a media blackout on his campaign.

In an interview earlier this year with *The Times*, Mr Gorbachev said he hoped to offer a serious alternative to the front-runners, President Yeltsin and Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader.

However, he has failed to overcome the hostility still felt by many who blame him for the Soviet Union's break-up. In seventh place, with just under 1 per cent support, he may now decide to retire from the campaign.

Dudayev: never lived in his homeland Chechenia until he became leader in 1991

Rebel with fanatical self-belief

By Thomas de Waal

A HOST of unanswered questions have gone to the grave with Dzhokhar Dudayev. The most intriguing is to what extent the leader of Chechen nationalism was a Soviet general to the end.

Even at the height of the war there was suspicion that General Dudayev, 52, still maintained links with his old comrades in the Russian Air Force. Petr Deinekin, the air force commander, who masterminded the bombardment of Grozny and Chechen mountain villages, admitted recently that he had known the general, although he had "never drunk a glass of vodka with him".

A former aide to the rebel President tells the story of how he planned a trip to Lithuania in 1992 by ringing his air force friends. They cleared an air corridor for him across Russia.

Dudayev grew up in Kazakhstan in the 1940s and 1950s, along with the rest of the Chechen population exiled there by Stalin, and never lived in Chechenia until he became leader in 1991. His school was the Soviet military, where he was regarded as a loyal officer who scrupulously carried out orders to bomb Afghanistan.

His wife, Alla, is a Russian living in Estonia. His poor command of the Chechen language was one reason why he co-opted Zelimkha Yandarbiyev, a poet and one of his likely successors, to be his Vice-President.

Yet his proud demeanour and fanatical self-belief tapped a rich vein in the Chechens, who in 1991 were emerging from years of persecution and humiliation by the Soviet authorities.

EU rules on coach seat belts

Brussels: Seat belts must be installed for passengers in all new European coaches and minibuses by 2001, according to a European Union agreement this week that ends years of squabbling over road safety (Charles Bremner writes).

Under the new directive, all new-model coaches must carry two-point belt systems and strengthened seats from October next year. Two more years will be allowed for the installation of belts in new vehicles of existing models. New model minibuses will be required to have three-point belts from October 1999 and all new vehicles will come under the rule two years later.

Doctors strike over reforms

Paris: The French Cabinet pushed through three decrees to rein in the expensive and unwieldy healthcare system as doctors went on strike in protest (Ben Macintyre writes). The reforms complete an overhaul of the social security system outlined by Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, last autumn, which prompted the worst strikes in France since 1968. Doctors' unions say the latest moves will ration care and turn doctors into "accountants".

Airport flaw

Düsseldorf: The airport at Düsseldorf did not conform to German fire regulations when a blaze killed 16 people on April 11. All the dead had inhaled toxic fumes, which made scores more people ill. The North Rhine-Westphalia Prime Minister, Johannes Rau, said flammable material was used in passenger terminal false ceilings. *(Reuter)*

Old lags off rails

Rome: A gang of three grandfathers, posing as elderly gentlemen, looted and pick-pocketed travellers at one of Rome's central train stations, *La Stampa* newspaper said. Confessing their crimes, the gang-leader, Domenica Panella, 81, said: "But we weren't violent". (Reuter)

Berlusconi questions election result

Rome: Italy's right-wing alliance yesterday engaged in increasingly bitter recriminations over its defeat in last Sunday's election, with Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and leader of the conservative Forza Italia party, complaining that the votes which delivered a centre-left victory "did not add up" (Richard Owen writes).

"There seem to me to be an impossible number of spoiled ballot papers, not least in areas like Emilia Romagna," Signor Berlusconi said. Emilia Romagna is a traditionally left-wing area and the home region of Romano Prodi, the economics professor from Bologna who is set to become Italy's next Prime Minister when parliament convenes on May 9.

Signor Berlusconi, who was Prime Minister for nearly eight months in 1994, has spent the past three days studying the election returns and declared that the ballot did not reflect voters' true intentions.

Alberto Michelini, a Forza Italia politician who is still contesting his narrow defeat in last year's regional election in Lazio, said: "It's easy to spoil a ballot paper: you just scratch it."

Leaders' early test, page 38

War crimes tribunal releases dying general

By Michael Dynes

THE UN war crimes tribunal yesterday gave up one of its star witnesses to the atrocities committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina because he is dying of cancer.

General Djordie Djukic, the man responsible for the shelling of Sarajevo which killed an estimated 10,000 civilians, was released on humanitarian grounds.

General Djukic, 62, the most senior Bosnian Serb held by the war crimes tribunal in The Hague, has terminal pancreatic cancer. Dutch medical experts say he has weeks to live. A defence request for all charges against General Djukic to be dropped on the ground of insufficient evidence was dismissed.

Judge Richard Goldstone, the Chief Prosecutor, reluctantly agreed to the general's release, arguing that he would be unable to participate in his own defence.

War crimes investigators had hoped to use him as a test case for the doctrine of "command responsibility", under which senior officers are held accountable for acts carried out by their subordinates. They also hoped that he would give evidence against Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and General Ratko Mladic, the commander of the Bosnian Serb army.

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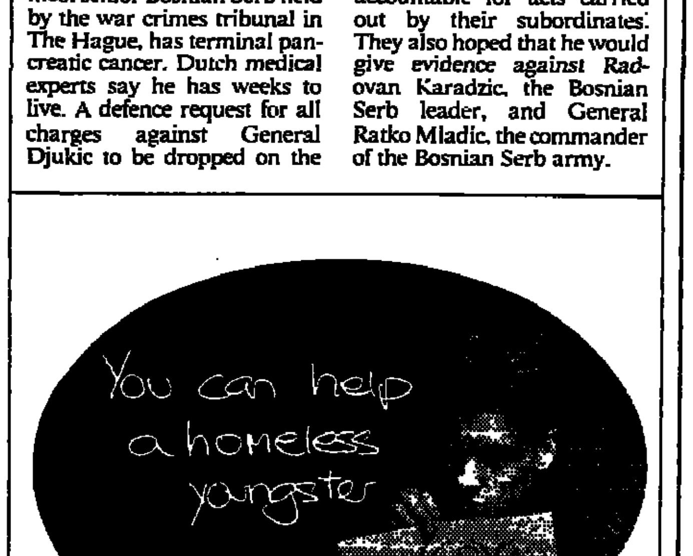

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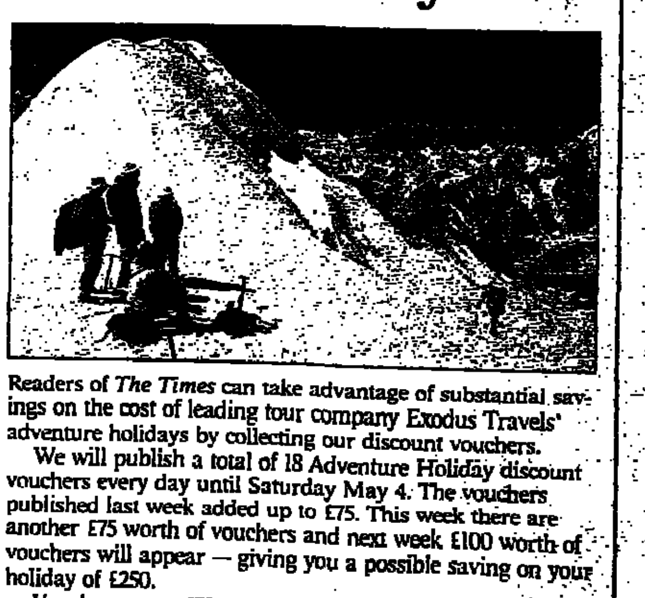

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Buyers pay dream prices for a little of Jackie O

Feverish bids to capture stardust of a First Lady

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A BIDDING frenzy on the opening night of the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis auction confirmed the extraordinary esteem in which the late First Lady is still held, and said much about America's cult of the personality.

Sotheby's pronounced itself amazed by the blizzard of bids for even the smallest souvenirs of "Jackie O". A simple tape measure, three inches in diameter, sold to a Manhattan fashion designer for $42,500 (£28,000) excluding commission. That was a tenth of the sum paid for President Kennedy's favourite rocking chair, which went to an anonymous buyer for $400,000 (£265,000).

Yet even that — for a thin-cushioned chair which had been estimated to fetch $3,000 — was not the most extravagant gesture on a night of sybaritic spending. A cigar lover, Marvin Shanken, paid well over half a million dollars for a walnut humidor which was given to President Kennedy by Milton Berle.

Mr Berle, who had been hoping to buy back the humidor, said: "I never dreamed it would be worth that much. But I think it's terrific." Mr Shanken said that he had long been "in love" with President Kennedy — "a great man and a great smoker". It was a great night, too, for those who oppose New York's draconian anti-smoking policies, and Mr Shanken triumphantly (and illegally) lit himself a fat stogie to celebrate.

Bidders were encouraged by a feverish atmosphere in the auction hall and were rewarded with applause and backslapping for feats of high expenditure. A dowdy lamp used in the former Mrs Kennedy's White House suite went for $42,500 (£28,000). "Is the bulb included?" quipped an onlooker. The answer was no.

Amid increasing hubbub, Mrs Onassis's dressing table set sold for $35,000 (£23,000), a Robert Rauschenberg portrait of JFK fetched $220,000 (£146,000), and her baby grand piano was bought for $150,000 (£100,000) by a Mrs Pat Baher as a gift for her husband, despite the fact that Mr Baher is no musician.

Proceeds from the sale will go to Mrs Onassis's two children, Caroline and John Kennedy, who did not attend. The Kennedy children have said that they hope the astonishing trove of possessions, some precious, others touchingly mundane, will take with them to the outside world a little of their mother's spirit. For bidders, there was the elusive hope that by buying something once owned by Jackie O, they could acquire some of her sheen.

More than 90,000 absentee bids were received, and telephones at Sotheby's New York offices were jammed. At least 1,000 people were admitted to the sale hall, with auxiliary rooms in Los Angeles and Chicago, and by the end of the evening the air in the hall was fetid. Bidders came from London, Paris and Tokyo, with a discernible sprinkling of South Americans.

The first of eight sale sessions, comprising 71 lots, made $4,477,700 (about £3 million) not including auction house fees. Sotheby's originally expected the entire sale to make only $5 million. The estimates for lots were preposterously low with, for instance, a little 19th century footstool going for 290 times its guide price of $100.

Some bidders in the hall on Tuesday night wondered if Sotheby's stunted estimates in order to attract bids and generate a sense of expectation. Others argued that no sensible auctioneer could have got estimates so badly wrong on purpose.

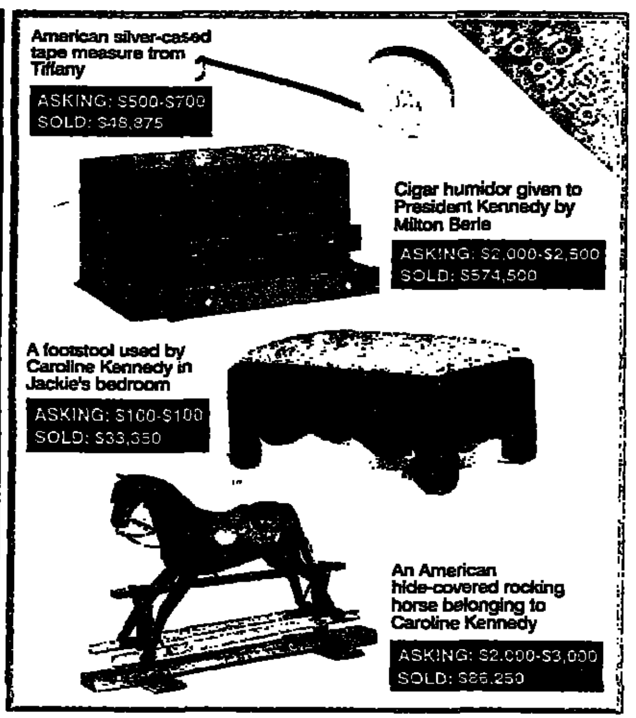
Yesterday morning New York tabloids expressed their astonishment at the success of the sale in characteristically robust fashion. "Jackie Dough" cried the *Post*. The *Daily News*: "Off their rockers".

The most spectacular bids may yet be to come. Mrs Onassis's jewellery, including the pearl necklace once grabbed by the infant Jon-Jon and the vast diamond given to her by Aristotle Onassis as an engagement present, are expected to attract sums reaching the millions.

Sale of century, page 19

Jackie O: the focus of a personality cult

Rocking the record books: JFK in his favourite chair, a thin-cushioned seat that fetched $400,000. Like so much in the auction, its price raised gasps



American silver-cased tape measure from Tiffany
ASKING: $500-$700
SOLD: $48,875
Cigar humidor given to President Kennedy by Milton Berle
ASKING: $2,000-$2,500
SOLD: $574,500
A footstool used by Caroline Kennedy in Jackie's bedroom
ASKING: $100-$100
SOLD: $33,350
An American hide-covered rocking horse belonging to Caroline Kennedy
ASKING: $2,000-$3,000
SOLD: $86,250

Dynasty's fortune secured by grand 'garage sale'

BY QUENTIN LETTS

AMERICA has no Royal Family, but has more than made up for it with the Kennedys. Despite all the philanderings of its menfolk, the ogre-like personality of old man Joseph, Chappaquiddick and a thousand bar bills, the Kennedy clan has a grasp on the American imagination that exceeds all others.

"Jackie O How Could You?" headlines asked when Mrs Kennedy wed the Greek shipping tycoon, Aristotle Onassis, but even that unlikely union did not dent the love America felt for the former Jacqueline Bouvier. It was, more than her beauty and her position, her aloofness that earned her the lasting fascination of a society used to disposable personalities. She kept the public at arm's length. The desire of ordinary citizens to learn more about her had much to do with the astonishing sums paid for trinkets from her parlour.

There has been speculation about the motives of Caroline and John Jr in selling so many of their mother's possessions. Are they trying to cast off the pelt of history? However, it has been disclosed that when she realised she was dying of cancer in 1994, Jackie Onassis plotted the grand "garage sale" which started in spectacular manner on Tuesday night.

Alexander Forger, Mrs Onassis's lawyer, said this week that while she wanted her private papers to stay with the family, she felt little for her many chattels. "For tangibles, for furniture, tables, rugs, pictures, it was simply another element of property that had served its purpose and now could serve another purpose," he said. So she planned the great sale, the proceeds of which should secure the financial comfort of her children.

No snip for cigar lover's best friend

BY LEYLA LINTON

THAT President Kennedy's humidor sold at auction for $½ million will not surprise cigar lovers who will spend as much as £10,000 on custom-made cabinets or boxes to keep their cigars fresh.

The best humidors have a special electric humidifying system. Cigars age like wine and the circulating air helps the ageing process, according to Luc Daire, humidor expert at Alfred Dunhill.

More modest humidors, usually lined with cedar wood and costing around £270, are used for temporary storage for 50 cigars.

Turkey's coalition shaken as MPs back inquiry into Ciller

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

THE Turkish parliament decided yesterday to throw Tansu Ciller to the wolves — so threatening a ruling coalition not yet seven weeks old.

MPs voted by 232 to 179, a larger than expected majority, to support an opposition motion to investigate the former Prime Minister for "misuse of office" over public tenders.

The motion was brought by the pro-Islamic Welfare Party as part of a promised vendetta to avenge its exclusion from power after December's election. However, some of Mrs Ciller's government partners in the Motherland Party appear to have supported it.

During a bitter election campaign, Mesut Yilmaz, the Motherland leader, accused her of abusing high office to enrich a coterie organised by her husband, Ozer Ciller. Last March Mr Yilmaz swallowed his pride and pulled out of negotiations with Welfare to form a Government with Mrs Ciller's True Path Party.

The understanding was that Mr Yilmaz would be Prime Minister until the end of this year and Mrs Ciller for the next two. Yesterday's vote may mean she will not get the chance. The launching of an inquiry into her handling of large state electricity contracts could end with her indictment. The investigation alone, however, means she is disqualified from being a minister.

Yesterday's vote was not on the most serious charge against Mrs Ciller. Many believed the motion was a stalking horse for a graver accusation parliament will consider on May 9 concerning a sealed tender she is accused of having opened improperly.

It remains to be seen if Mr Yilmaz can survive his triumph. Mrs Ciller threatened earlier in the week to pull out of the coalition if the vote went against her.

The one hope for the coalition's survival is for True Path to close ranks and soldier on without Mrs Ciller.

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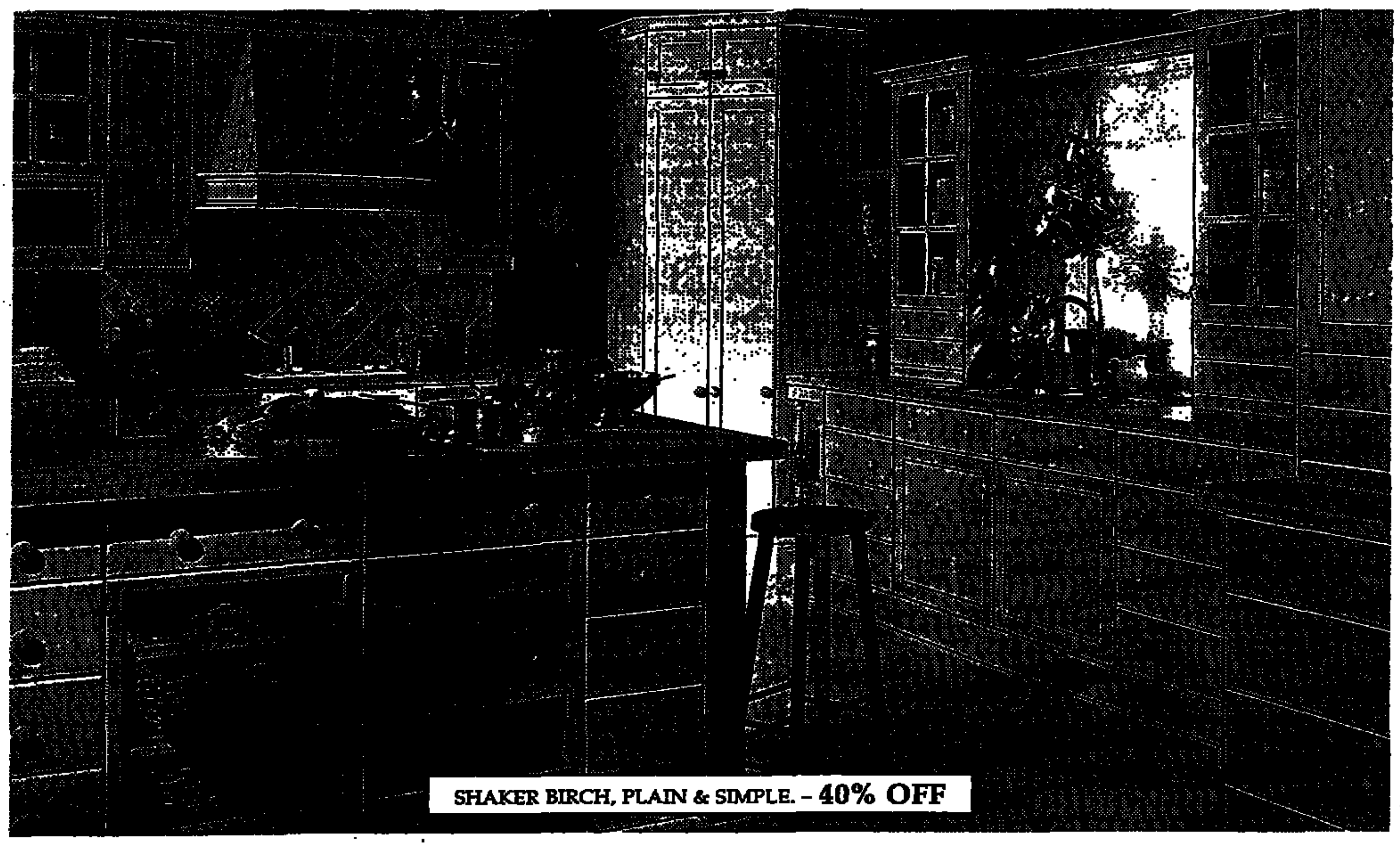

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TI 24

Dole takes offensive as Republican 'funk' turns to panic

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Dole campaign is to step up its attacks on President Clinton in an urgent effort to stem a rising Republican panic and erode the President's commanding poll lead before it becomes unassailable.

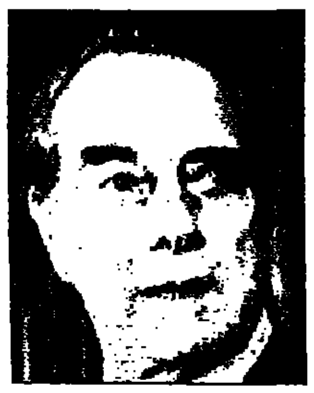
The Republican National Committee will shortly launch an advertising campaign on behalf of the party's nearly penniless nominee that will portray the President as an incurable liberal.

Bob Dole himself plans to deliver a series of speeches on issues, such as the economy and welfare, designed to draw an ideological contrast between himself and Mr Clinton. "We have got to push Clinton back in his liberal box," one senior Republican operative told yesterday's *Los Angeles Times*.

Mr Dole's advisers are also questioning the wisdom of his plan to campaign from the Senate floor, the so-called "rotunda strategy". The idea was to rush through a series of popular reform bills which the President would have either to veto and risk public wrath, or sign and let his challenger get the credit. In the event, congressional Democrats and Republican defectors have dealt Mr Dole a series of embarrassing reverses.

Republicans are beginning to fear not only that Mr Clinton will be re-elected, but that the Democrats could even regain the House of Representatives. Their "funk", as Newt Gingrich termed it, has been brought to a head by a string of polls showing Mr Dole now lagging up to 20 points behind Mr Clinton, and by outspoken criticism from other top Republicans.

"The Republican establishment is very down," a senior party strategist said. "The impact of the polls is starting to build. I predict we will be in a frothing panic by next week."



Dole: says Clinton is 'incurable liberal'

The polls show Mr Dole trailing the President not only nationally, but by substantial margins in the battleground states of the industrial Midwest, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, where the Clinton campaign has been advertising heavily. The Senate leader received no discernible boost from winning the Republican nomination and aides are worried that Mr Clinton's lead will harden and prove insurmountable if it is not eroded by mid-summer.

Earlier this week William Bennett, a leading conservative, broke ranks with a devastating speech in which he called the Dole campaign "incoherent and dispassionate" and said the nominee aroused "very little enthusiasm" in the party.

The previous day Bill Kristol, a prominent Republican strategist who edits the conservative *Weekly Standard*, predicted the lacklustre Mr Dole would lose badly and urged conservatives to keep their distance.

The Dole camp calls these critics the "sky is falling crowd", but Mr Kristol insisted he was stating only what many Republicans felt privately.

"I had Republican muckety-mucks call me up and deplore this kind of criticism, but I had calls from Republican elected officials saying I was right," he told the *Boston Globe*. "Maybe this will jar the campaign."

Tacitly admitting the problem, Haley Barbour, the Republican Party chairman, said it was time for Mr Dole to "get on offence". The senator and the party "need to make clear what is at issue, and the differences we have with Clinton, in the months between now and the [August] conventions if we are to reach equilibrium by then".

☐ **Campaign boss:** After months of delays, President Clinton has named Peter Knight, a Washington lobbyist and fundraiser, as his campaign manager. Mr Knight, who is chairman of the Democratic National Committee's huge fund-raising gala on May 8, will run the day-to-day operations of the campaign staff. *(AP)*

Chelsey Thomas, with her parents Lori and Bob, in hospital in Los Angeles before an eight-hour operation to give her the ability to smile

Girl's $70,000 operation raises hint of a smile

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE PRICE of a little girl's grin is $70,000 (£46,000). That is what it has cost for surgery on a seven-year-old child who was born without the facial nerves and muscles needed to smile.

Blonde, blue-eyed Chelsey Thomas, of Palmade, California, was in stable condition yesterday after an eight-hour operation during which surgeons extracted nerve and muscle tissue from her leg and placed them in her jaw. If the two-part operation is successful, Chelsey may be able to greet her birthday on June 29 the same way as any other eight-year-old: with deep dimples.

Chelsey was born with a rare condition known as Moebius Syndrome which afflicts 1,000 Americans. "Being unable to smile has numerous problems associated with it, both social and psychological," said Chelsey's surgeon, Avron Daniller, at Kaiser Permanente Medical Centre, Los Angeles. "We are optimistic that the surgery will help alleviate Chelsey's problems."

The result will not be apparent for at least two months. Complications could occur if the nerve is not strong enough, or if the tissue was damaged during transfer from the girl's leg to her face. American television viewers were able to watch surgeons drawing red lines on Chelsey's rosy but glum face. Lori and Bob Thomas, Chelsey's parents, decided to proceed with the operations because they were unable to bear the thought of their daughter going through life without her face ever radiating happiness.

The first stage of the surgery was conducted in December and has lifted the left side of her face. When Chelsey arrived at the hospital for stage two she greeted cries of "good luck!" with a lop-sided grin. "When she has the other half of her smile, she will really be smiling," Mrs Thomas said.

Chernobyl children inherit mutations

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FAMILIES living in the area contaminated by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster ten years ago have twice as many genetic mutations as expected, scientists have discovered. The genetic changes are also found in children born since the accident, showing that they are passed down the generations.

A second study at the Chernobyl site in Ukraine also shows a high rate of genetic mutations in voles, although the species appears to be flourishing.

Professor Sir Alec Jeffries, of Leicester University and one of the team which reported the human genetic changes in *Nature*, said that most experts did not believe that the levels of radioactivity around the plant would have genetic effects.

"This is the first direct evidence for radiation actually causing mutation in human children," Sir Alec said. However, he made clear that the findings did not mean the children would develop diseases such as cancer. "This is all highly preliminary and suggestive, although there does appear to be something going on there," he said.

"It will in the future raise questions about just what is the effect of low, persistent levels of ionising radiation in the environment from one human generation to the next."

Sir Alec's group collected blood samples from 79 families in rural areas of neighbouring Belorussia heavily affected by nuclear fallout from the accident on April 26, 1986. The families all had children born between February and September 1994. As a comparison, they examined 105 British families who were not exposed.

The Belorussian families had twice as many mutations as the British families. The mutations were also clearly handed down from parent to child, and were permanently coded in the youngsters' genes, meaning that they will pass them on to their children.

Hezbollah determined to carry on Lebanon fight

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

HEZBOLLAH pledged yesterday to continue attacks on Israeli troops in their occupied south Lebanon "security zone" — even if a ceasefire were achieved. The threat came as fierce fighting continued for the fourteenth day amid urgent American diplomatic moves to halt the violence.

At the same time there were diplomatic reports that, for the first time, the Lebanese army had begun to take limited action to try to restrain the Hezbollah attacks, leading to claims by officials that some form of ceasefire might be agreed by the weekend.

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the Iranian-backed leader of Hezbollah (The Party of God), ruled out Washington as a mediator and vowed not to accept any peace pact secured by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State.

As the Islamic militant leader was speaking, salvoes of Katyusha rockets continued to rain indiscriminately across Galilee and Israeli jets pounded targets close to Tyre, blasting a water pipeline supplying 23 villages in south Lebanon and three United Nations outposts in the region.

"Hezbollah's ink is not ever going to be next to Israel's ink," the Sheikh said, amid reports that the Islamic militants' morale has been boosted by the failure of Israel's Operation Grapes of Wrath, now entering its third week, to halt the Katyushas. The fighting has killed more than 150 people and injured over 300, mostly Lebanese civilians.

While his belligerent remarks were further stoking a conflict threatening to expand if Islamic suicide bombers take revenge against Israeli or Jewish targets, Mr Christopher was swallowing his diplomatic pride in Damascus to meet President Assad of Syria after being snubbed 24 hours earlier. He later went into eastern Lebanon to meet Rafik Hariri, the Prime Minister, before returning to Israel.

Mr Christopher did little to disguise his irritation at Tuesday's unexplained refusal by Mr Assad to keep an agreed appointment to discuss Israel's reaction to the single-page US peace blueprint.

Meanwhile, there were ominous signs that Operation Grapes of Wrath was undermining improvements in Israel's standing in the Arab world. President Mubarak of Egypt called the continued pounding of Lebanese targets "an unforgivable sin".

In Israel, backing for the Lebanon blitz remained high as the nation celebrated the 48th anniversary of its independence amid an unprecedented security alert to prevent Islamic revenge attacks.

☐ **Washington:** President Clinton said yesterday that America was ready to provide emergency aid to Lebanon and implied that the recent crisis may be nearing a ceasefire (Tom Rhodes writes). "I hope we're quite close," Mr Clinton said before meeting President Hrawi of Lebanon.

Britain pledges to take volcano islanders

BY MICHAEL DYNES

UP TO 500 inhabitants of the volcano-stricken Caribbean island of Montserrat are expected to enter Britain, diplomatic sources disclosed yesterday.

Most of the island's 9,000 inhabitants, who are largely descended from black slaves and dissident Irish banished there by Oliver Cromwell in the 17th century, are expected to enter America or other Caribbean islands in the event of a mass evacuation.

But Britain will accept any islander from the British dependency who has friends or relatives already living here. The islanders, who are not entitled to hold British passports, would be allowed to remain for up to two years.

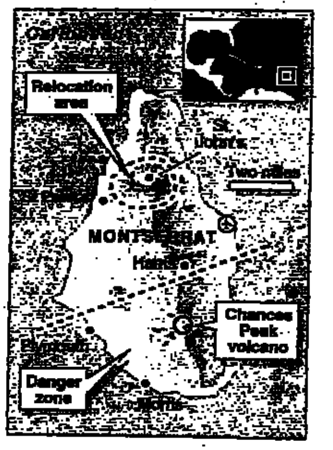
Those who decide to come to Britain will be expected to make their own way, although they will be entitled to income support and housing benefit on arrival. Any decision to allow them to stay beyond the two-year period would be made by the Home Office.

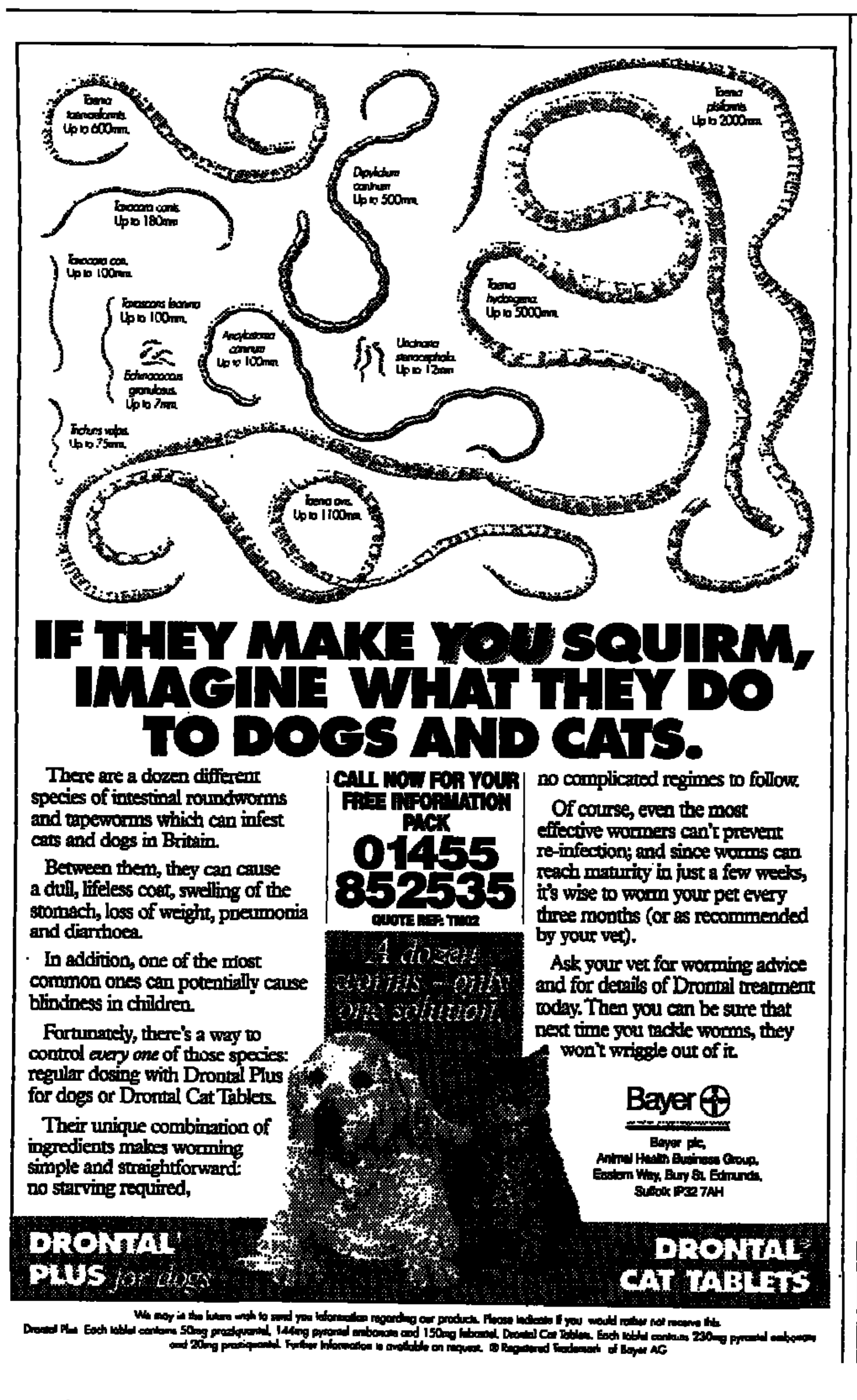
The vast majority of islanders have made it clear that they would prefer to stay where they are. But should a mass evacuation become necessary, British, French and American warships and aircraft are on stand-by.

Scientists believe that there is a one-in-ten chance that the volcano, known as Chances Peak, would erupt in a violent explosion. But the island authorities are increasingly concerned about the large amounts of black ash spewing out of the volcano, incinerating everything in its path. More than 5,000 people living on the south of the island were evacuated to the northern sector in April, following advice from British scientists.

Scientists now suspect that volcanic activity may have peaked, but the volcano is still blowing off black ash.

Most of the evacuated islanders are living in makeshift housing, with up to 200 living in a single shelter. "You cannot keep people in these conditions indefinitely," one diplomatic source said.





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Tokyo cult leader tells trial of search for 'ultimate truth'

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

AT THE start of his trial yesterday, Shoko Asahara, leader of the Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult, ducked the question of whether he plotted last year's nerve gas attack on the Tokyo underground.

Mr Asahara refused to enter a plea to three charges, including one of murder in connection with the sarin gas attack that left 11 people dead and thousands injured in the morning rush hour on March 20, 1995.

When asked how he pleaded, the 41-year-old guru answered with a three-minute exposition of his religious views. "I want to help all the souls on earth to attain the ultimate truth," he said. Mr Asahara was also charged with the killing of an Aum disciple and the illegal production of anaesthetics.

His apparent lack of remorse provoked anger among who lost loved ones in last year's gas attack. "From his attitude you could not even tell that he was attending a trial," said Tomoko Hirata, 24, who was among those injured. "He looked bored throughout."

Ms Hirata said she wanted Mr Asahara to apologise to his victims. "But I no longer think of him as a human being, so it is probably useless to ask him to do that," she said.

The cult leader fidgeted and stroked his long hair and beard as prosecutors read out the charges and the names of more than 3,800 victims of the gassing and the extent of their injuries. Once grossly overweight, Mr Asahara has lost about 60lb in prison since his arrest last May, according to a police source.

The guru appeared in court dressed in a dark blue prison tracksuit, after his request to wear religious robes was denied by Judge Fumihiro Abe. Prosecutors had objected that the wearing of robes would have an undesirable influence on cult devotees. About 10,000 Aum members were in thrall of the guru before his arrest, and the authorities fear that Mr Asahara may try to use the trial to somehow control his dwindling flock.

From behind bars, Mr Asahara has smuggled out messages to disciples and once attempted to send locks of his hair and nail clippings for use in religious rituals.

Most of the key figures in the Aum cult, which preaches that the world will end in 1997, are also on trial and some have implicated Mr Asahara in courtroom evidence.

The start of the trial yesterday was delayed when the defendant gave his name as Asahara rather than Chizuo Matsumoto, his legal name. "I threw away that name," he said.

With several of Mr Asahara's followers on the police wanted list, tight security was in force around the Tokyo District Court. Officials said the possibility of a "rescue attempt" by fanatical disciples could not be ruled out. The police presence was also intended to deter a revenge attack on the cult leader.

Media coverage was frenzied, with television networks cancelling scheduled programmes to bring day-long coverage of events. Cameras are not allowed in Japanese courts to broadcast proceedings. Out of more than 12,000 would-be spectators who queued from early morning, only 48 members of the public gained entry to the court in a lottery for seats.

Police say the cult stockpiled arms and operated a biological warfare laboratory and a nerve gas factory in a plot to overthrow the Government and launch a civil war. Mr Asahara faces 14 more charges in connection with these alleged activities in further trials. With appeals, the legal procedure could drag on for more than a decade.

The cult leader has said he is losing his mind because of the length of his confinement in the Tokyo detention centre. "I feel like an animal," he complained to a member of his 12-man defence team. However, he apparently finds the food and general conditions more amenable in the detention centre than in police cells where he was held during regular spells of interrogation.

"It's like going back to the zoo from hell," he is quoted as saying, describing the transfer from the cells to the detention centre.

A sketch of Shoko Asahara, the Japanese doomsday cult leader, at the start of his trial in Tokyo yesterday

Leading article, page 21

Dog meat back on the boat to China

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

A FERRY operator plying between Hong Kong and China now includes a popular Chinese snack on its lunch menu: dog.

The move has caused a row between the ferry company and the authorities in Hong Kong, where dog meat has long been banned. It has also renewed fears that dog could be back in Hong Kong restaurants after the handover to the Chinese next year.

Hong Kong officials confirmed yesterday that legal action may be taken against Chu Kong Passenger Transport. But Lee Ziquing, a Chu Kong spokesman, remained unrepentant, claiming the sale of dog meat was "no different to buying duty-free cigarettes and alcohol".

The sale of dog meat in Hong Kong can incur a fine of up to £500 and six month's jail. Mr Lee said Chu Kong was not breaking the law, since passengers could order the meat only once the ferry was clear of Hong Kong.

India poll hangs on caste vote

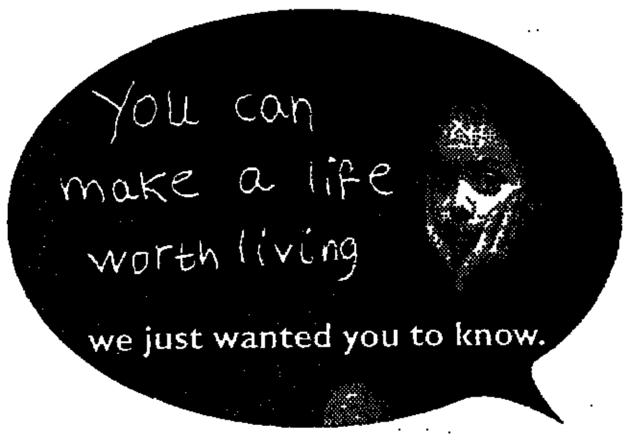
FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LUCKNOW

WITH two days before voting begins in India's general election, the outcome is already known: it will be a mess. Nobody can win outright and vast amounts of money will exchange hands in post-poll horsetrading to form a shaky government that will probably not last a full term.

The three main contestants, the Congress Party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the flimsy National Front-Left Front alliance, will carve up most of the seats between them. All eyes will then turn to President Sharma, who will referee the fight to form either a coalition or a minority government. India has never had a national coalition, although it had an unhappy experience with minority government.

All but 20 per cent of the 590 million electorate are defined as "backward" castes, tribals or religious minorities. The two huge northern states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which together account for nearly a quarter of seats in the lower house, are seeing a revolution that has empowered the "backwards".

Newly assertive backward castes are voting as they wish instead of as high castes tell them. The Congress Party, which has governed for most of the 49 years of independence, has thus been all but destroyed in the two crucial northern states. It nevertheless stands a good chance of forming the next government with the aid of regional parties. In any case, the outcome will be determined in smoky backrooms, and by suitcases of cash.



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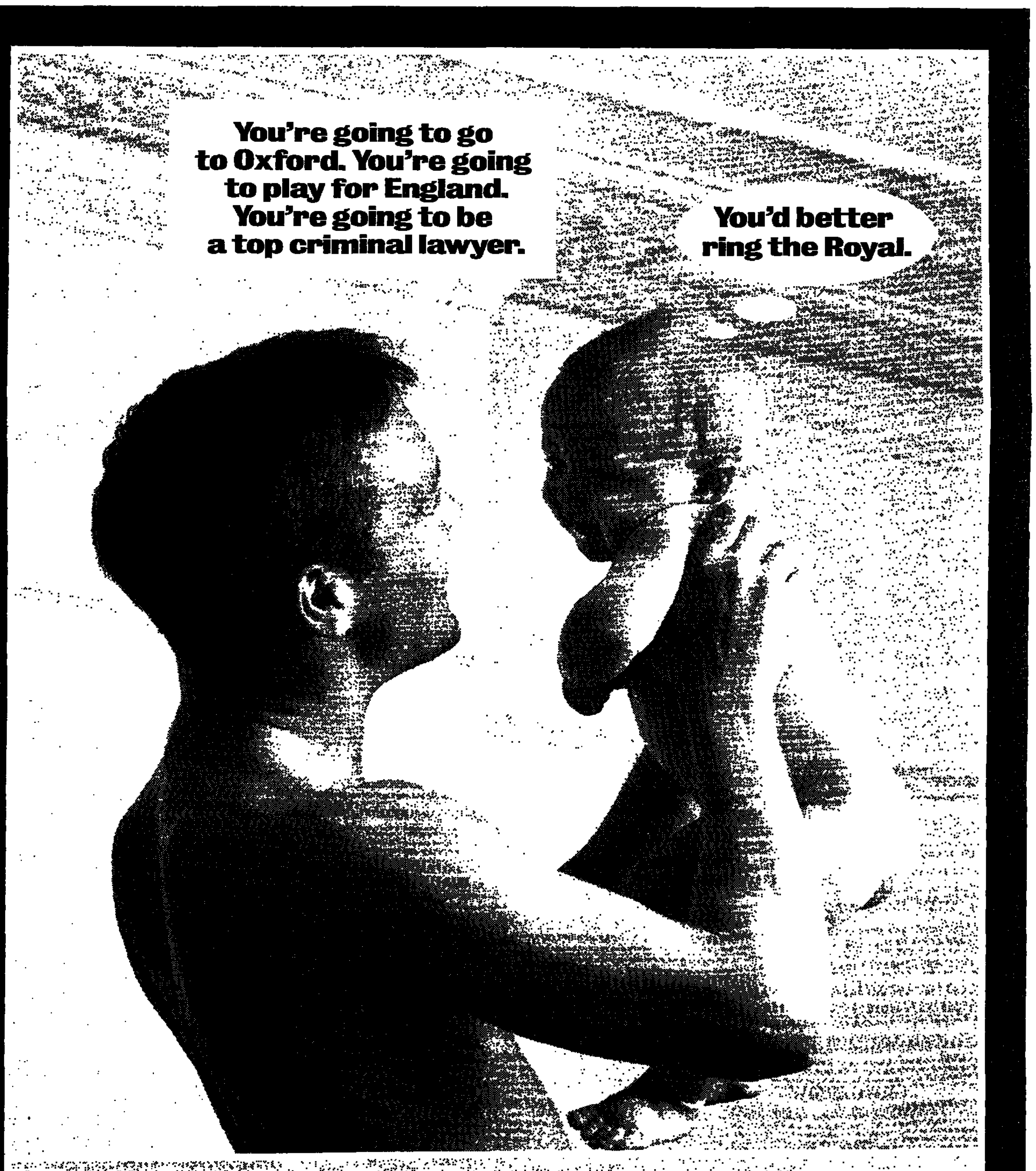

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Is home or a nursery the best place for your child? We examine three views of a problem many parents are facing

Living with the guilt

THE MOTHER

KATHY and Steve have a 14-month-old daughter, Anastasia. At 8am each weekday for the past year, Kathy has taken Anna to a local nursery before starting a full day's work. She collects her daughter at 5.45pm.

"I knew I'd have to go back to work because we wouldn't have been able to cope on Steve's salary.

We advertised in *The Lady* for a nanny and advertised locally for a childminder. Neither alternative really satisfied us. The nannies we spoke to were terribly young or didn't speak good English. We decided on a nursery because we felt Anna would be constantly stimulated. It was a hard decision but when we first visited our chosen nursery, I felt reassured — there was a good staff-child ratio and lots going on. I felt she would be safe and happy, although the thought of leaving her there was hard — in the three months since her birth I had never really been without her.

> 'The best feeling in the world is when I pick her up'

The week before I went back to work, Steve and I took her into the nursery to get her used to it. We stayed for 30 minutes and then had to go for an hour. I felt horrible. I looked through the window as I walked past and I could see her lying there in this room without me. I had this big lump in my throat. Steve was telling me not to upset myself but I couldn't help it. I felt so terribly guilty, like I was deserting her.

We got back to the house, but I couldn't relax. I was watching the clock go round, desperate to go back.

The first full day was even harder. Although Anna seemed OK, it was very, very hard to walk away. I couldn't concentrate at work. I kept looking at the clock and wondering what she was up to. I rang after an hour to see how she was and then again at lunchtime — the nursery said I could ring as often as I wanted. I couldn't wait for the clock to go round.

The worst thing is waiting for a call telling you that your child is unwell, or has had an accident. It has happened a couple of times and the guilt is tremendous. You think you should have been there. I remember one morning when Anna had a rash under her arm. It wasn't serious and she wasn't in pain so I took her into the nursery. Even though she was fine I felt so guilty all day that I vowed I would never do that again.

She seems happy there, but it is hard knowing that you are missing your child growing and developing. Anna first crawled at nursery, she took her first step there. They told me when I went to pick her up and I felt proud, but sad that I hadn't been there to see it. Steve and I both felt we'd missed something.

I have photos of Anna in my Filofax so that I can keep her with me during the day.

The best feeling in the world is when I pick her up — she comes running towards me, jumping up and down, rattling at the gate of her play area. She's so excited to see me. On a couple of occasions she's turned round and wanted to go back. It's a very strange thing thinking that she is more attached to the nursery than she is to you.

I'm doing this for her. I want her to have a good quality of life. While I would love to be at home with her, I know she's happy, she's being educated and she's learning to be independent. But it is a sacrifice and the guilt stays with you all the time."

KATHRYN KNIGHT

SIMON WALKER

Fourteen-month-old Anastasia waits for her mum to pick her up from her nursery

Daycare can benefit babies

THE EXPERTS

Parents in other parts of Europe would be mystified by the debate that erupted yesterday over the merits of nursery education for two-year-olds. As in America, most take it for granted.

In France, the age of entry to the *école maternelle* has been reduced this year, allowing some children to begin state education at two-and-a-half. Parents drop them off at 8.30am and pick them up at 4.30pm, most worrying more about fatigue than the emotional effects of separation.

Belgium has similar arrangements, beginning at the age of three, while state childcare from an early age has been part of the system throughout Scandinavia for many years. In the United States, private nurseries and crèches cater for children who are only a few months old.

Academics have been arguing for decades about the psychological impact of childcare, but most of the research has been conducted overseas because British provision has been so scarce. Studies in Sweden and the United States have concluded that there is no evidence of psychological damage that Paddy Holmes, the Ditcham Park headmistress, fears for children who are separated from home for long periods.

Researchers have found advantages in the development of social skills and there is evidence of academic benefits when children start school. In France, where 250,000 two-year-olds attend nurseries, only 10 per cent of those who start at two have to repeat the elementary year at school, compared with 18 per cent who start at four and 30 per cent who have no formal pre-school education.

The age group under discussion has become younger as the debate has gone on. While John Bowlby, whose Attachment Theory is the seminal work, held that daycare in the first three years could damage, the focus has switched to those under one.

More recently, however, nursery education for two-year-olds has almost ceased to be an issue. Professor Rudolph Schaffer, of Strathclyde University, says: "The research has been virtually unanimous that children benefit from good quality nurseries at quite a young age."

A project, which included figures from both camps and funded by the US Government, reported last week that after examining 1,200 children, more than half of whom were in full-time daycare, academics reached the conclusion that separation from the mother was not harmful, unless both the home and nursery lacked sensitivity. As long as there was a caring atmosphere in one sphere of their lives, children would survive emotionally.

JOHN O'LEARY

Weighing up what is best

THE NURSERY

WHEN Heidi Clapp opened the Corner House Nursery in west London, she had one strict rule: none of her 14 staff would wear a nursery uniform. As a former Norland Nanny, she had come to loathe the regulation chocolate brown shifts that are the trademark of Britain's most exclusive pram-pushers.

Though she thinks that day nursery is not right for every child, Mrs Clapp takes babies from as young as three months old. "We have nine places in our baby room and three staff to look after them," she says. "At present, all the parents of our babies work. Some are doctors, barristers, bankers and journalists. In most cases, the couple needs two salaries in order to keep the lifestyle they want. There are others who prefer their baby to be with other children rather than at home with a nanny."

The baby room in her Chiswick nursery, which opened in 1991, has mobiles over the cots and music playing. Babies can stay for ten hours, but many parents start their youngsters with half-days. The £700-a-month fees include nappies.

Mrs Clapp, 37, who is married to a BBC manager and has another nursery in Ealing, practises what she preaches. Her son, Adam, now six, attended the nursery from the age of three months. The benefits are clear, she says, adding: "He always liked mixing with adults and children. I think it benefited him to start here at three months — he is now advanced for his class at primary school."

Mrs Clapp thinks mothers should not feel guilty about leaving their children at an early age. She says: "Plenty of studies say that so long as the child has formed an emotional base, they can go on to make further emotional ties easily."

Mrs Clapp believes the most important balance to strike is to recognise the difference between your own needs and the child's. For example, she took her son to swimming lessons when he was three. "He hated them," she says. "I realised I was doing it to benefit myself — because I was so proud that my son could swim. You have to weigh up what is best for your child."

EMMA WILKINS

Good rays in small doses

Having a chest X-ray is less risky than smoking a single cigarette

After the war, George Watkins's service life ended with a couple of years in a sanatorium. Diagnosed as having TB, a diagnosis since questioned, he was lucky to survive.

Recently George, now in his 80s, developed a persistent cough. It is almost certainly nothing more than bronchitis attacking a badly damaged lung but, as TB can become reactivated in the older age groups in whom the immune system is failing, it seemed in order to arrange for a chest X-ray. Even if George hadn't had TB when he went into the sanatorium he had been given every opportunity of catching it once there.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

◆

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

George, however, had his own opinion about X-rays and thought, not unreasonably, that he had had enough for one lifetime. We agreed on compromise and procrastination.

Many people this week have been disturbed by the *Panorama* programme on the hazards of X-ray. Dr Michael Brindle, president of the Royal College of Radiologists who practises in King's Lynn, says that this week several of his patients have refused X-ray investigations, and in the case of some of them a lack of an X-ray could lead to serious ill-health.

There is a risk in X-ray investigations and therefore as a matter of principle unnecessary ones are not carried out. Each request for an investigation is thought about carefully before it is ordered.

Patients should however be reassured, for the risk is very small. Someone living in Britain for instance is eight times more likely to die from exposure to the natural radiation in the environment, whether it is derived from the earth or cosmic radiation, than they are from visits to a hospital X-ray department.

The danger to George's life of having a chest X-ray is the equivalent of smoking one cigarette, not one a day, but one in a lifetime. Another reassuring calculation shows that the modern X-ray machine exposes the body during a chest X-ray to only half the additional radiation to which it would be exposed by a jet flight to Spain. In theory 50,000 chest X-rays would be needed to increase the chances of a patient eventually dying from a cancer from 25 per cent to 27 per cent. Because chest X-rays are so commonly ordered they have tended to be regarded as a bechmark of radiation hazard when in fact they produce so little radiation that they can be too reassuring.

An X-ray of a complete spine, or a CAT scan, will expose a patient to many times the amount of radiation used to obtain a chest film.

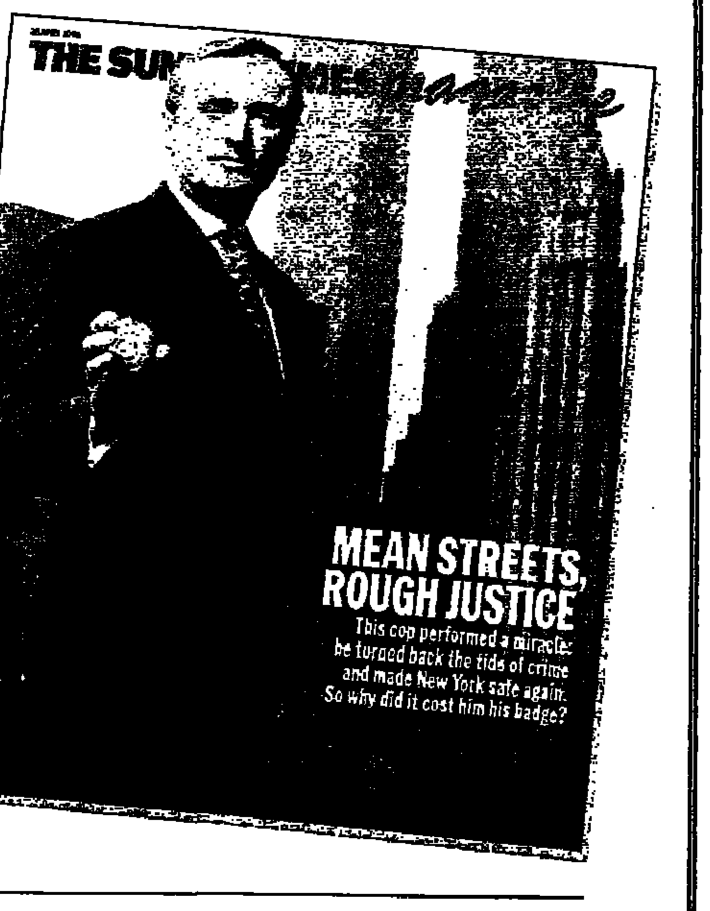
Although the Royal College of Radiologists is not complacent about the hazards of radiation it is proud that its strictures on the use of unnecessary investigations have resulted in anyone living in Britain being likely to have been exposed to only half the amount of X-radiation that those who live, for instance, in Canada or Japan will have been.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

CRIME BUSTER IS BLOWN AWAY

He tackled serious urban crime by getting a grip on petty urban crime, such as begging and vandalism. It worked: Bill Bratton was a sensational success as commissioner of police in New York. Then he had to throw in his badge . . .

Russell Miller finds out why, in The Sunday Times **Magazine**



THE SUNDAY TIMES Magazine
MEAN STREETS, ROUGH JUSTICE
This cop performed a miracle: he turned back the tide of crime and made New York safe again. So why did it cost him his badge?

JEFFREY ARCHER

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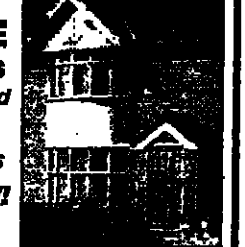

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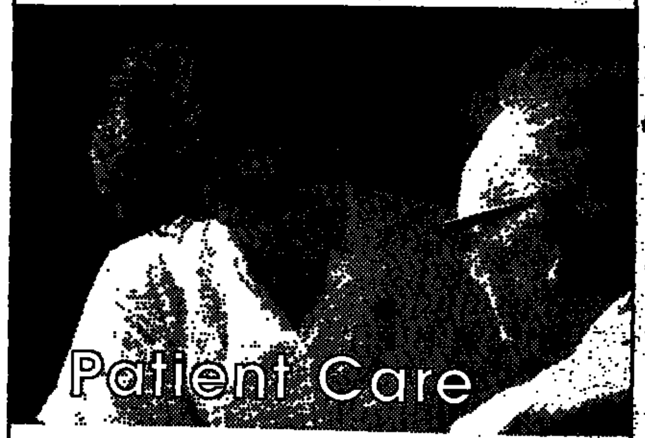

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Fancy going out for a Bangladeshi?

Curry wars have broken out on the high street and the fate of chicken tikka may be at stake, **Robina Dam** reports

Most foreign imports bear little, if any, relation to the original source and the most popular Indian dish in this country is no exception. The next time you visit an Indian restaurant, whether it is the local Taj Mahal on the high street or the more upmarket Star of India in South Kensington, chances are that you will order a chicken tikka masala, consistently the number one choice for the past couple of years.

But it's time to lift the lid on the chicken tikka masala story, or CTM as it is known in the trade. Contrary to popular belief, this dish would not be recognised in India — for the simple reason that it doesn't exist there. Chicken tikka, cooked in the *tandoor* (or clay oven) is a familiar sight. But it is a dry dish and the British love of gravy with their meat meant that it needed an overhaul. Add a dollop of tomato sauce and the CTM was born. A classic example of market-led forces at work.

Unbeknown to the British public, it is not just the CTM that is non-Indian. So are the majority of "Indian" restaurants. Most of them are run by Bangladeshis and this identity crisis has led to one of the most important periods in British curry history. Soon the face of the high-street curry house might change forever and the phrase "Fancy going out for an Indian?" could become an anachronism. The curry wars have started and your vindaloo is at stake. Should it be made the way grandmother does in Bombay, or is it permissible to dose curries with different strengths of chilli powder to retain the punters' perception of an Indian meal?

These are hot questions in curry circles as they raise the matter of authenticity versus "give 'em what they want". Now there is a campaign afoot to rename three-quarters of Britain's 7,500 Indian restaurants as Bangladeshi. Pat Chapman, founder of the Curry Club and author of Indian cookbooks, explains: "In the 1970s when the industry was really getting under way, Bangladesh was such a new country that most people in Britain hadn't even heard of it."

ADRIAN BROOKS

The face of Indian restaurants could change

Bangladesh was part of Pakistan and it was only in 1971 that it became independent. Now the second generation of Bangladeshi restaurateurs want national recognition and have set up the Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs. Marketing is a priority. At the guild's launch Angela Browning, the Food Minister, congratulated the achievements of restaurateurs from Bangladesh over the past 50 years. That the nation had only been around for 25 years had obviously passed her by.

"It's about time you knew who was cooking your curry," declares Abdul Miah, owner of the Bina in Reading and one of the guild's three founders.

Not to be outdone, the restaurants run by Indians have also set up a club. Enter the Elite Indian Restaurant Association, brainchild of Kal Dhaliwal, who owns the Shimla Pinks chain in the Midlands, and the Killermont Polo Club in Scotland. Mr Dhaliwal wants to change the unfortunate image that Indian restaurants have of red flock wallpaper and background sitar music. "As its name suggests, Elite will consist only of the crème de la crème of Indian restaurants. They will only be invited to join if they make the grade," he states.

Elite's co-president, Namita Panjabi, fans the chilli flames by comparing her chic Chelsea restaurant, Chutney Mary, with Le Caprice and Daphne's, in contrast to the Bangladeshi-owned restaurants: "the fast-food equivalent of the Indian restaurant industry at the cheaper end of the market".

She points out that the top 5 per cent of the sector are genuine Indian restaurants such as the Bombay Brasserie, Tamarind and Café Spice Namaste. "If the Bangladeshi restaurants want to declare their national identity, then that's good for the image of the higher quality Indian ones. The food served by the Bangladeshis would not be recognisable in sub-continental homes," she says.

Mr Miah is furious at what he sees as aspersions cast on the culinary skills of Bangladeshi chefs and owners. "I'd like to know what ingredients she uses that the rest of us don't. We all use the same spices, don't we? This is just snobbery."

However, Atul Kochlar, executive chef at the slick Mayfair restaurant Tamarind, is one of the Indian purists appalled at how traditional dishes have been corrupted. "It's a mission for chefs coming to this country from the sub-continent to change the way Indian food is perceived here."

Mr Miah dismisses the highbrow approach. "At the end of the day, we provide customers with what they want. Chicken tikka masala, *korma* and *pasanda* are our most popular dishes. Who cares whether they are authentic?" If the evidence is anything to go by, not many.

The tale is about to come full circle. While the curry neighbours fight it out, the Anglo/Indian/Bangladeshi curries go from strength to strength. In an ironic twist, the chicken tikka masala has been introduced to India. Coals to Newcastle it may be, but it looks like Britain's success story is about to be repeated — this time on home turf.

Jackie O – going, going, gone

Quentin Letts **tries to join in the bidding at the Kennedy sale of the century in New York, but fortunately finds himself hopelessly outclassed**

TONY PALMIERI

For sale: Jackie Onassis wearing her cabochon ruby and diamond earrings (enlarged above)

Now I know what it is like to be chatted up by the mighty Diana "Dede" Brooks, the chief executive of Sotheby's. The corners of her mouth played into a smile and her right eyebrow quivered. She flashed those eyes, pouted, flared her nostrils. "Well?" she said. "How about it? Do you say yes? Hmmm?"

Her proposal was not for some torrid tryst but rather, on the opening night of the selling of America's "crown jewels", that I should add another $1,000 to my already stretched bid for a set of cracked, rather common-looking porcelain plates. On these plates the late Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis may, or may not, have served cookies on summer afternoons in Hyannisport. Mrs Brooks was hard to resist. Clad in cobalt, she stood on Tuesday night, hammer raised, on the Sotheby's stand in New York. I dithered, then declined.

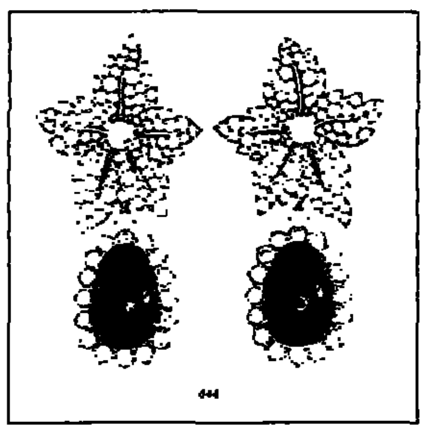
The plates went for $9,000, one of the cheapest lots on a night which saw a cascade of money. Outside, thunder announced Manhattan's first storm of spring. Inside it was pelting dollars.

Joan Rivers arrived in the hope of buying a couple of 3rd-century BC terracotta horses. "I knew Jackie O," she said with a wriggle of the shoulders. Joanie was one of several to leave the auction house disappointed. The terracotta horses, which had been given a catalogue estimate of $12,000, went for $72,500.

Marie and David Cooper flew in from London to bid for the rocking horse on which little Caroline Kennedy played in the White House nursery in the early Sixties. "We have seven children ourselves," said the elegant Mrs Cooper, who described her husband as "Europe's most expensive lawyer". But even they were to be frustrated. Bids for the rocking horse, which started at the catalogue low estimate of $2,000, rose within a couple of minutes to $75,000. "Blimey," said a bug-eyed Mrs Cooper. "You could buy a Derby runner for that!"

The rocking horse went to a dark-haired beauty a couple of rows behind the Coopers. Beside her sat a plumpish, flush-cheeked man who had clearly just seen his wallet sucked dry.

Before the sale began at 7.30pm there had been a discernible tension in the hall. As a bidder, I had the feeling you get when you are about to go out to bat in a cricket match: a prickling of the hairline and dryness of mouth. To acquire a bidding paddle you had first to be vetted by Sotheby's — "we can usually tell when someone is serious", said a suave auction official, giving my scuffed black shoes a dubious look.



Aristotle's wedding gift (est. $25-35,000)

The first lot, two dull seashell engravings, went for ten times their $700 estimate price. The bidding took less than 20 seconds. Up came a Louis XV ormolu and patinated bronze mantel clock, estimated by Sotheby's experts to fetch something in the region of $5,000. Whoosh went the bidding, Mrs Brooks shouting the numbers like a cattle auctioneer at Hereford market. "You say 39?" she cried to a check-shirted fellow at the back of the hall. "Nine!" he shouted back, with a Texan accent. But in came a higher bid. "Forty!" The Texan, beaten, slumped back in his chair.

Raoul Felder, New York's flashiest divorce attorney, who has in the past tried to offer advice to the Princess of Wales, shimmered by to say "Hi". What was he interested in buying? "The desk on which President Kennedy signed the nuclear test-ban treaty," he disclosed, scratching an ear. "It is the sort of thing a divorce lawyer needs, doncha think?" Pat Kluge, former wife of mogul John Kluge, dumped $120,000 on two Louis XVI chairs. She wanted "something specific to take back home to Virginia".

In the packed hall of more than 1,000 there were probably about 200 of us bidding seriously. A Japanese against the wall tapped furiously into a pocket calculator and shook his head. Former Chrysler chairman Lee Iaccoca realised it was no night for financial logic and dropped his arm.

Time and again I entered the bidding. One time, with a rush of fear, I thought I had won a 1910 German earthenware pot with a bid far beyond my private limit. It was with some relief that Mrs Brooks, after starting to say "to the gentleman at the side . . .", noticed a higher bid from the floor. The pot, estimated at $800, fetched $37,000.

Pat Baher wanted Jackie O's ebonised baby grand piano, the one which used to stand in her Fifth Avenue duplex. Mrs Baher, on the left-hand-side of the hall, bid like a terrier. The price started at $3,000, and an impressive struggle developed between Mrs Baher and a man on the right. Mrs Brooks called their bids like a tennis umpire, switching her head from side to side of the hall as she looked to each bidder to see if more money was forthcoming. The price hit $150,000. Mrs Brooks dropped the hammer and Mrs Baher had her baby grand, squealing with delight and clenching her fists in pleasure. "It is a gift for my husband," she told me. "He doesn't play the piano. But he will."

Bids were relayed by telephone from Los Angeles and Chicago, with LA winning some of John Kennedy's books and Jackie's cigarette lighter.

This really was the sale of the century, at least as far as New York was concerned. Manhattan loved Jackie Bouvier, and her death two years ago left a void at the top of the city's social pyramid. The extraordinary, even ridiculous amounts spent on the opening night of this auction were a very American demonstration of affection for a woman of mysterious substance.

After two hours of auctioneering, a hoarse, exhausted Dede Brooks accepted a glass of wine and I folded my unsuccessful bidding tool. "Never mind," said kind Mrs Cooper. "At least you got your paddle up."

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True peers are made, not born

Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary, defends Labour's reform

According to Churchill, the Lords in the early part of the century was "filled with old doddering peers, cute financial magnates, clever wire-pullers, big brewers with bulbous noses. All the enemies of progress are there — weaklings, sleek, smug, comfortable, self-important individuals".

Eighty-five years on, after two Parliament Acts have reduced the powers of the Lords, membership of a legislature on the basis of birth remains, in Tony Blair's words, "a manifest constitutional unfairness".

There is simply nothing to justify it. An informal committee under the (hereditary) Earl of Carnarvon sought to do so last year and failed. The best argument it could construct was that the "present House introduces a random element into political life".

Random? A study of the Lords in 1981 showed that 80 per cent of hereditary peers had been to public school, and well over half (431) had been to Eton. There has been no comparable study since, but precisely because the Upper House is hereditary, the background is unlikely to have changed in the past 15 years.

The Carnarvon report claimed that a House of Lords without hereditary peers would "continue to embrace past presidents of the Royal Colleges on the General Medical Council", but "would contain no ordinary doctors or dentists". Yet of 19 doctors and dentists in the Lords in the early 1980s, just three were hereditary, and I doubt that any of those were "ordinary". By contrast, 60 per cent of all hereditary peers were landowners or farmers.

Nor has chance played any greater part in their political loyalties. Today, 328 hereditary peers take the Conservative Whip, 22 are Liberal Democrats and 13 are Labour (another 172 are crossbenchers, and 72 have no affiliation of any kind). In fact the Lords has in recent years become more, not less Tory. Tory peers have increased by 33, while Labour numbers have declined by 28.

The hereditary principle is defended by John Major and Brian Mawhinney as though it were the ark of the covenant. Yet whenever the Tories have thought seriously about the position of the Lords in the past, they have concluded that a Second Chamber so dominated by birth and one party is indefensible. In 1948 a party leaders' conference, which included the Conservatives, concluded that a reformed House of Lords should be such that "a permanent majority is not assumed for any one political party". More recently, a Conservative review committee in 1978, under the former Prime Minister Lord Home, recommended a Chamber based on a mix of election and appointment. It said: "The maintenance of the *status quo* is not a prudent policy. Indeed, we are doubtful whether it is a policy at all."

Labour does have a policy. It is, as a first stage, to remove the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the Lords. That pledge will form part of our manifesto, and if we are elected it will become part of our legislative programme.

Some hereditary peers in all parties make an important contribution to the Lords, and as Tony Blair has made clear, some of them could be made life peers. There will also be no change of titles.

What we will secure is a Second Chamber based on merit — on the attributes of those who hold the title, not on those of their forebears.

Britain is often slow to change its institutions, and the removal of hereditary peers will be an enormous democratic gain. Moreover, a reformed Chamber is likely in practice to be more self-confident and more questioning, precisely because it will have ceased to be dominated perpetually by one party. That will make for better government, if a less comfortable ride for ministers. After the Nolan report's suggestions about appointments, new life peers should be more varied than they are today.

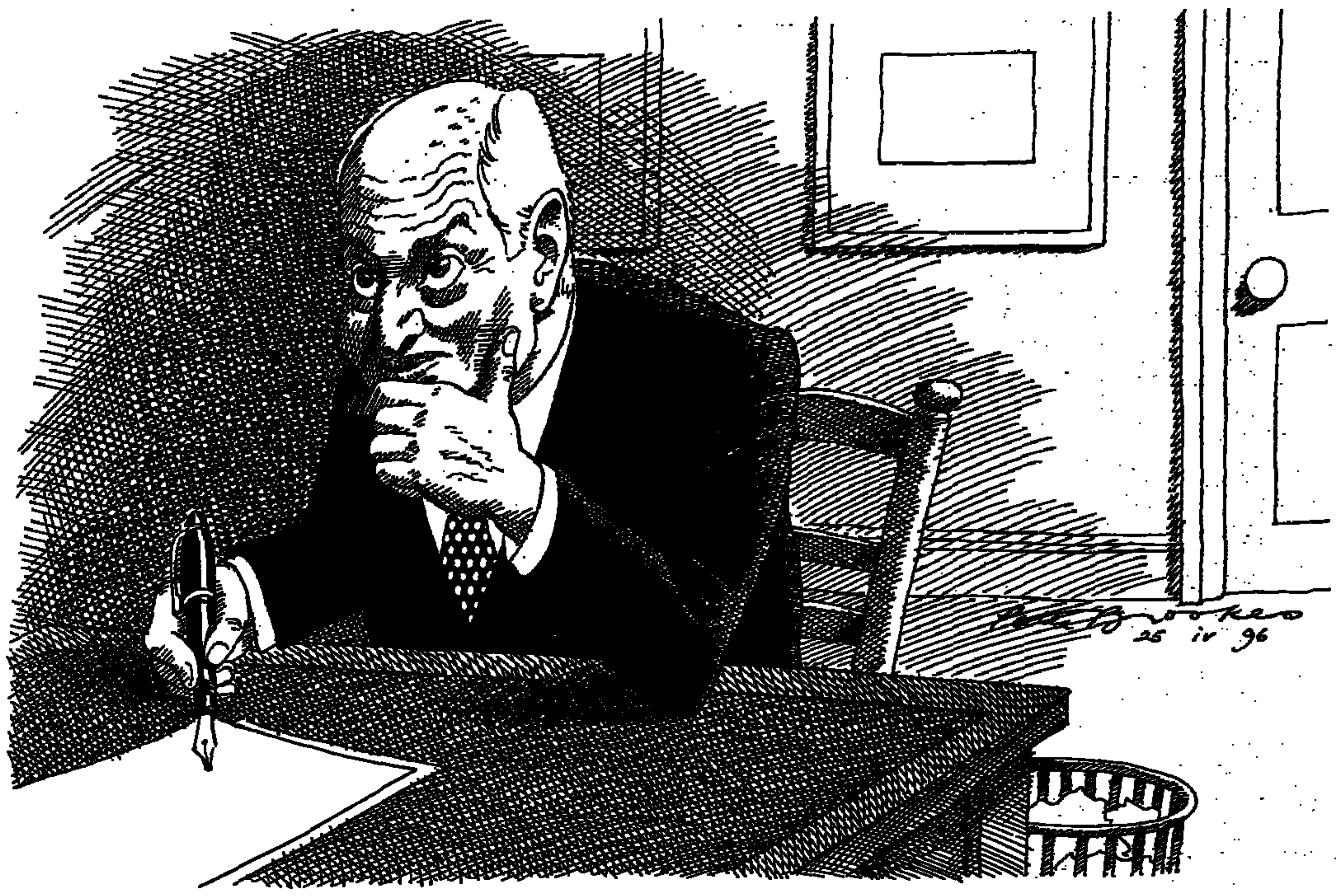
Two arguments are often made against our proposed reforms. The first is that removing hereditaries from the Lords might bring the position of the monarchy into question. This is nonsense. Plenty of Western states have constitutional monarchies, but none has the equivalent of an unreformed Lords.

> The Lords has recently become more Tory, not less

The second argument is that until there is complete clarity about long-term changes there should be no reform at all. But as with previous constitutional reforms in this country, it is vital that staged changes are made on the basis of a well understood case and wide agreement.

The Constitution Unit's report on the Lords, published today, offers a valuable insight into the process necessary for achieving the second stage of reform, whether it be a Chamber wholly elected or one based partly on election and partly on appointment. The report spells out the need for "consultation, consensus, inquiry" before a change of such magnitude could, or should, take place. It also has good advice about possible midwives for such a process (such as a royal commission, an all-party parliamentary committee or a party leaders' conference).

It is a strength of Labour's current position that it does not have a dogmatic view about exactly what such a Second Chamber will look like. We are open-minded about the process. As well as being inherently just, our simple reform of removing hereditary peers will stimulate a public debate about the Lords' future. By the time the project that Churchill and others embarked on at the beginning of this century is complete, the solution will be the best and most popular available.



" To The Editor, The Times: Sir, may I venture to record the Sound of an absolute cuckoo heard yesterday addressing the Institute of Directors...? Yours, &c., James Goldsmith "

Modern media ministers

Magnus Linklater asks if policy is now subordinate to news management

Eight o'clock on a Sunday morning at No 4 Millbank, and the minister is waiting for the first of his interviews. It is with GMTV, who will give him five minutes, allowing him time for *Breakfast With Frost* on BBC, sandwiched with a quick cross-examination from Radio Five Live before a clutch of regional and commercial radio stations, who put in their "bids" earlier in the week. Later on, he has been booked in to Sky News and *On the Record*, and there just could be a slot on *The World This Weekend*. By the end of the morning, if he's up to it, he will have done nearly 20 interviews — "two-ways", "head-to-heads", "down the line" — all part of the broadcasting jargon these days, but equally familiar to the modern media minister.

Sunday, once gloomily known by journalists as a "slow day", has become a highly productive one for politicians and news managers, a seedbed for the next day's headlines. It also yields a rich harvest of blunders. Given the range of the output, the potential for misunderstandings, contradictions, and splits (or hair-line fissures) is enormous. Listening intently to each programme are the spin-doctors from Tory Central Office and Labour headquarters at Walworth Road, ready to detect and highlight the slightest outbreak of heresy from the lips of their rivals. Then, if things have gone badly wrong, there may, next day, be a need for another minister, or even the same one, to be wheeled out to "re-orientate" the party line.

For those who relish the sword-play of party politics this is all good robust fun — not much blood shed, but a very satisfying clang of steel on steel nevertheless; and the noise is about to get louder. Next Wednesday, May 1, marks what one Tory party official describes as a "defining moment" in the political calendar: it is one year exactly to the last possible date for a general election, and ministers will be told that unless they are prepared to fight and win the battle of the airwaves, then in a year's time they may simply no longer be around to joust with John Humphrys, or trade badinage with Sir David Frost.

But before they cancel their appointments and head feverishly for the television studios at Millbank — where most of the running commentary on the Westminster scene now comes from — let us press the pause button, and ask whether this form of maximum access politics, in which policymaking sometimes appears to take place live on television before our very eyes, is entirely to the benefit of the nation.

Last weekend was a fair example of government by cock-up rather than common sense. Delicate negotiations over the BSE affair were sent flying by some of the most ham-handed examples of news management we have seen for some time. John Major's remarks about the Euro-leaders, whom he accused of behaving like "a bloody bunch of shits", were leaked by party managers to the *Sunday Express* to help give the Prime Minister a suitably robust image as his Foreign Secretary went into a negotiating session with his opposite numbers in Brussels. This was talked up on various programmes during the day, and echoed on Monday by Malcolm Rifkind, who warned of retaliatory action if the ban on beef exports was not lifted. The temperature was raised further with talk of trade sanctions, withholding Britain's EU contribution, and even the "nuclear option" of a ban on all European foodstuffs.

> More policymaking now seems to be done off the cuff and on air than in private

By then Downing Street had begun to panic, and by the time Channel Four News came around that evening, Michael Heseltine was forced to step in to calm an outbreak of hysteria which had been entirely of the Government's making. Any suggestion that this was a Machiavellian piece of spin-doctoring designed to humble or bewilder our Euro-rivals crumbled when it emerged yesterday that there had been recriminations within the Cabinet over a manoeuvre that had been badly mishandled. One view, from within the Tory camp, was that this demonstrated the weakness of the Downing Street publicity machine and that there was a need for more ruthless control of ministerial comments, preferably under the guidance of Central Office. Others thought this was precisely the wrong way round, and blamed the gung-ho attitude of Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, who urged belligerence rather than diplomacy in the run-up to the BSE negotiations.

What no one questioned was the sub-text of all this: that the medium is in danger of overtaking the message. Over the past ten years, the appetite for this kind of story has increased, partly because of the proliferation of media outlets, partly because of the speed with which they can now react. A minister or opposition spokesman can be reached by fax, pager, mobile or "e-mail" within seconds of a story breaking. He can give an off-the-cuff response, or be in a nearby studio within minutes. A tape of what he says can be played back to a rival spokesman within the hour. Instead of having to wait for a lunchtime news-slot, a "rolling news" programme — Sky, Radio Five or any commercial station — can get it onto the air straight away. By the time of the early evening news, there will have been reactions from all interested parties. Producers of the main evening news may already have begun to feel jaded and to want a further response. The Opposition will be more than happy to provide it, so the luckless minister may have to haul himself into yet another studio.

Of course, you could argue that there is nothing fundamentally new here. News and its manipulation has been the stock-in-trade of politicians since Gladstone first addressed a mass audience during his 1879 Midlothian campaign, or since Henri de Blowitz, *The Times*'s legendary Paris correspondent, invented the political interview. You could say that Baldwin was the first Prime Minister to blame the media when he accused Beaverbrook and Rothermere of being "engines of propaganda" in 1931. And you could reasonably claim that it was a previous Tory chairman, Lord Poole, who first used television as a propaganda weapon. After one notorious party broadcast in 1964, the political correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* marvelled. "I have never seen any party make more telling use of ten minutes on the television screen", to which Lord Poole responded jovially: "If you don't parade the circus down the street no one will buy a ticket for the night."

But it is the speed with which the parade can now be mounted, and the immediate access to millions of voters that has changed the nature of the circus. Brian Mawhinney highlighted how far things have come when he recalled the story of Harold Macmillan and his Foreign Secretary, Selwyn Lloyd, arriving back from a foreign trip to be greeted by just one BBC reporter at the airport. When the BBC man asked whether Macmillan or Lloyd had anything to say, the answer was a firm "No". He thanked them deferentially and went on his way. It would be inconceivable today for a minister to say nothing on such an occasion, or for the media to accept it if he did.

Things have got to the point where one sometimes wonders whether more time is not spent discussing policy on the air than in deliberating on it in private. If there is no clear consensus beforehand about how a matter should be handled in public, there is unlimited potential for gaffes. One commentator makes the point that to blame the medium is to miss the point. The Government would not be in this kind of trouble, he said, if it were not hopelessly split over Europe; the Opposition would not be so vulnerable if it could present a united front on tax. I doubt that, though. Journalists and politicians abhor a vacuum. If those stories were not available, one side or the other would feel obliged to invent a substitute.

The only thing one can say for certain about the year of campaigning that lies ahead is that Attlee's plea to Harold Laski — "a period of silence on your part would be welcome" — will be lost in a cacophony of soundbites, starting on Sunday.

William Rees-Mogg is away.

Africa needs no voyeurs

Sam Kiley says Diana's stunt did harm, not good

The Princess of Wales this week joined the mass media in shamelessly exploiting the mawkish voyeurism of the television-viewing public by being filmed observing an operation to save an African child, who suffered from a hole in his heart. This sort of stunt kills more Africans than it saves.

As the self-appointed Queen of Hearts pointed out, her presence was intended to raise the profile of Chain of Hope, the charity which flew seven-year-old Arnaud Wambo from Cameroon to Britain for the operation, and so generate funding through private donations.

Fair enough. But the Princess used the medium of television to appeal to an innate sentimentalism in the Western viewer which has created the agony industry continuum. In the long run, this will cause the greatest possible pain to the greatest possible number of Africans. Breaking this cycle would mean replacing show-business with a harder-headed "cruel to be kind" philosophy.

The continuum is very simple. It goes like this: disaster strikes (in the form of starvation, poor or collapsed government, or most often civil war); aid agencies see a need to "help" civilians; they rush to the aid of the needy, tracked by the lenses of the mass media; viewers back home are moved to donate, and the aid agencies' budgets swell.

What is wrong with that, if lives are saved? Nothing, but the agony industry continuum does not stop there. Arnaud was flown out of Cameroon because no medical facilities exist for his treatment in the country, and if they had, he would not have been able to afford them. As in most other African nations, hospitals in Cameroon are understaffed filthy asylums of last resort, where patients share beds and needles because their governments are too inefficient and corrupt to care about the people. So we do it for them. The Princess's appearance at Arnaud's operation will generate money for his charity and lessen the need for Cameroon's government to get its healthcare system in order.

Soon these financial, medical, or food aid donations rise to such levels that they become national resources, squabbled over by politicians and fought over by warlords.

The worst examples of this obscenity have been in Somalia, Rwanda and Zaire. In 1992, a short famine in Somalia caused by civil war erupted into a plague of starvation. The famine was deliberately manipulated by the warlords, because the International Committee of the Red Cross and other agencies, under the glare of the TV lights, would pay any price to feed Somalis, in a year in which domestic food production was in surplus. The Red Cross and other agencies allowed themselves to become one of the principal sources of funds for the warlords, and a cause of the famine.

Spending $100,000 a week on "protection" in Mogadishu, the Red Cross gave the warlords a financial incentive to maintain starvation at the highest possible level. As a result, 350,000 Somalis died. Far fewer might have perished if the famine had been ignored entirely.

In 1994, a million Tutsis and political moderates were slaughtered in Rwanda, at a rate of 37,000 a day, mostly out of sight of the television cameras. Their Hutu murderers, fearing retribution, then fled into Zaire (in full view), where there has been no attempt at the politically tricky task of arresting and trying the genocidal ringleaders.

Instead, the Hutus in exile have received $2.5 billion in aid (thanks to the media). This works out as a gift to each one of them of $400 a year — double their usual per capita income. The money is being used to finance their rearmament, before an invasion aimed at finishing off the last of the Tutsis back home. Donor money might have been better spent arming the Tutsis to protect themselves, and on separating ordinary Hutus from their evil leadership.

In Ethiopia, the number of people facing starvation in the Ogaden rises by about 100,000 a year because they breed in famine camps, where they are fed by aid workers because the land cannot sustain them. Soon the one million souls originally in danger will have swelled to twice as many.

Some aid organisations, notably Care and Medecins sans Frontières, are aware that their often brave and noble efforts serve only to take the problem of serving their populations from the shoulders of Africa's leaders. Or that their resources become the fuel for African war-engines: money, food and medical supplies are what warlords fight for.

But such admissions are rare, because they require the nerve to refuse to help people when that very help might lead to greater agony. Someone should support the agony industry as it tries to break the continuum, by exposing it on television.

If it is publicity that the Princess of Wales wants, or even a "role", her energies could be put to better use in using her gigantic fame in campaigns to reduce Third World populations, to oust bloodthirsty warlords, or in taking a stand against regimes which mean that boys like Arnaud cannot be treated at home.

THE TIMES DIARY

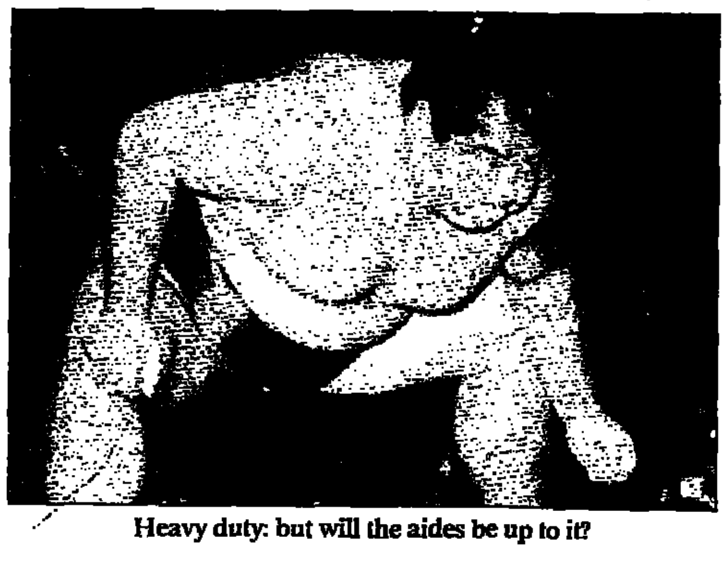
American sumo

SUMO WRESTLING'S great bottom-wobblers have a new fan. After his recent state visit to Japan, President Clinton is smitten with the sport. Never one to indulge his passions by halves, whether wolfing pork ribs or reading thrillers, the President has taken to watching sumo on cable television for up to three hours at a time.

En route from Japan to Russia for last week's heads of state meeting, Clinton laid out the basics of his new passion to journalists on Air Force One. Assuming the wrestler's crouch, he explained how it lowered one's centre of gravity. The secret to the sport, explained the economist in the President, "is a leverage deal".

His enthusiasm was sparked by a meeting with two American wrestlers who have flourished in Japan. Akebono, at 7ft 6in and 36½ stone, is the largest sumo warrior in history. The President, no waif himself, was dumbstruck to learn that he had put on 240 pounds to reach his full wrestling weight.

The President, doubtless drawing a political analogy, observed that little wrestlers can flip bigger ones out of the ring with speed and agility — but that doesn't happen very often. My advice to Clinton's aides is to smother this new passion. As our Washington correspondent reported yesterday, the President is prone to hauling aides out of bed to play cards for hours on end. Demands for late-night sumo bouts might prove a loyalty test too far.



Heavy duty: but will the aides be up to it?

Queens' head

MY NOTE yesterday about Balliol College, Oxford, appointing a new Labour Master in Andrew Graham has been pipped by the latest news from Queens', Cambridge. There, they have chosen the Labour life peer Lord Eatwell as President.

John Eatwell, 51, a grammar school boy from Swindon, has taught economics at the university since 1970. He was an adviser to Neil Kinnock, helped to set up the Institute of Public Policy Research, a Labour think-tank, and is now party spokesman in economic affairs in the Lords. More promisingly, he is unusually interested in contemporary dance styles, and, when excited, boogies with extraordinary gusto.

Ladies please

MONDAY night saw Sir James Goldsmith, *duce* of the mono-policy Referendum Party, taking his message to the young ladies of the Kit Kat Club, an organisation for upwardly-thrusting women.

The talk was arranged privately through a daughter of Jim Slater, the financier and old friend of Goldsmith. The Kit Kattery will doubtless have proved fertile, not to say politically presentable, ground for Goldsmith's anti-European seed, as his party searches for candidates to fight the election.

● *President Yeltsin may yet rue the death of Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen separatist leader killed last week, for he will be haunting his enemies from beyond the grave. He took the precaution of sending sensitive material on senior figures in the Kremlin to his friends abroad, with strict instructions that they should disseminate the information on his demise. As a former general in the Soviet Army, he had a few tales to tell.*

Hijacked

THE MAN who navigated the Queen safely through the skies for 15 years has a new mission: to steer a safe passage for the Deputy Prime Minister through the turbulence of a general election. Dick Stanton, the former Adjutant of the Queen's Flight, is to serve Michael Heseltine as his parliamentary agent.

In his time, Stanton — a solid, unflappable fellow — has flown with most of the Royal Family, including the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of York on their honeymoons.

"I am just sorry I retired before I could complete the hat-trick of royal marriages," he says. "I have always supported the Conservatives, but as a serving officer couldn't take part. I don't think the Queen had any inkling of my passion. I never discussed politics with her."

Peel appals

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S shooting companion Earl Peel has Yorkshire's planners flapping like agitated wood-pigeons. After selling off his massive Gunnerside shooting estate to the duty-free magnate Robert Miller, he wants to develop a remote and dilapidated farm as the new family pile. But he has come up against bureaucrats from Richmondshire District Council, who are appalled by his proposed scheme for the park and house at Eelmire.

Councillors yesterday tramped out to view the heap. "There were reservations about what he is proposing," says the planning committee's chairman, John Gill, delicately. "He's got quite ambitious plans for it. More than that I can't really say."

P·H·S

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BOOK OF CHANCES

A new chronicle of errors is good reading in a turbulent week

John Major's policy towards Europe remains a precarious straddle between opposing positions. He highlighted his difficulties again yesterday to the Institute of Directors, arguing for a Britain fully involved yet fighting its corner, operating at the top table but occasionally opting out. It has been a bipartisan British negotiating stance since the Sixties, but in the light of developments abroad and within Mr Major's own party it is becoming increasingly difficult for him to hold.

Mr Major dismissed critics who see Britain's links with Europe best confined to a common market as inhabitants of "cloud cuckoo land". He argued that Britain could not afford to be excluded from Europe's inner councils and that, from the inside, it could convince other states of the dangers of dissolving sovereignty. Mr Major may wish to save Europe by his exertions and example but as our economics editor, Anatole Kaletsky, points out on page 29, *Europe is not* going this Government's way. With Germany and France more likely with every week that passes to embrace a single currency, the Tory party grows daily more sceptical.

It is not only sceptics who think the current policy cannot hold. One of Britain's most eminent "Europeans" Sir Roy Denman, a former EC Ambassador to Washington, has published a book this week, *Missed Chances*, which examines the unhappy relations between Britain and the rest of Europe across this century, from the Moroccan crisis to the Major Government. It is a powerful polemic, particularly uncomfortable reading for those who believe that Britain can influence the Continent.

Sir Roy's diagnosis is that Britain, bedevilled by the past and incapable of shaking itself free from illusions, has seen its influence and interests damaged by the incompetence of its policy towards Europe. His prescription is submission before we are forced to surrender — British acceptance now of the social chapter, a single currency and a single foreign and defence policy.

Written with verve and an eye for telling detail, the book chronicles a series of errors, from Munich to Maastricht, in the management of relations across the Channel. But its resoundingly federalist conclusions are undermined, not buttressed, by the evidence adduced of the incompatibility of Anglo-Saxon and continental systems.

Sir Roy argues that the attempts since the war to strike a balance between the demands of an insular domestic political culture and the need to engage with the emerging EEC have been misconceived. He records French suspicion at the time of British negotiations to enter Europe. De Gaulle believed that honest British negotiating aims were wrecking amendments designed to stop integration. In the French political élite, that suspicion persists still. Wise policies from the British Government, designed to strengthen European co-operation, such as enlargement to the East or analysis of the effects of a single currency on opters-out, are still viewed as emasculating measures from perfidious Albion.

That suspicion persists, partly, because British interests differ in important respects from those of our European partners. De Gaulle observed in 1963 that Britain was "insular and maritime, linked by trade to varied and remote countries . . . industrial and commercial, hardly agricultural at all." That description of the nation's interests still holds. Sir Roy is keen on maximising British "influence" by increasing civil service penetration of the Commission and is prepared to trade independence for influence. But influence can be a chimera, bought too dear, while interests are real. Maintaining independence is still the most important way of protecting Britain's interests.

STRANGER THAN AUM

A doomsday cult's hold on Japan's brightest youth

In a Tokyo courtroom yesterday, a partially-sighted acupuncturist named Chizuo Matsumoto, alias Shoko Asahara, listened unmoved to a terrible rollcall, as the names were read out of 11 dead and more than 5,500 others who had survived the sarin gas attack on the Tokyo underground in March 1995 only after hospital treatment. The crimes of which he is accused include six other counts of murder and attempted murder and the illegal manufacture of drugs; but these crimes were mere harbingers of the poisoned apocalypse that he prophesied and which he and a dozen of his followers are accused of plotting to bring about. The alleged aim of Aum Shinrikyo, his murderous sect, was to seize control of Japan.

Superficially, the cult that he built from nothing into an empire worth well over $200 million resembles other fanatical millennialist "religions" in the West. It used familiar techniques such as physical deprivation and extortion to secure the assets of its brainwashed recruits. But comparisons end there. Aum Shinrikyo was officially recognised as a religion, with assets listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange and a network of at least 37 companies and another 21 dummy corporations. Its laboratories experimented in a wide array of highly toxic nerve gases and biological weapons made in its own factories, as were guns and explosives. Its procurement networks, which by last year had stockpiled, in massive quantities, more than 100 chemicals for its weapons programmes, spanned the industrial world. It saw itself, and functioned as, a state within a state.

The soul-searching that the Aum case has prompted in Japan concerns, most of all, the cult's ability to attract Japan's best and brightest young people. An alarmingly high proportion of Aum's 10,000 followers were drawn not from the drop-outs of Japanese society, but from the middle-class graduates of its most prestigious universities. Through computer networks, Aum recruited huge teams of particle and applied physicists, organic chemists, mathematicians, astrophysicists, engineers and computer wizards to work on Asahara's planned Armageddon.

The obvious question is what persuaded young people with brilliant careers ahead of them to give up family ties and surrender their physical and mental liberty to the lunatic ambitions of a criminal doomsday cult. As the hearings drag out, possibly for five years, what will be on trial is not only the men in the dock, but the intensive Japanese educational system that discourages individualism and imposes homework loads that, by requiring study late into the night, isolates children socially throughout adolescence. Aum couched its evil agenda in a language of spirituality that contrasted with the materialism of modern Japan; it was different, and in that difference lay its attraction.

To many Japanese, equally shocking is the failure of the authorities to act earlier. As early as 1989, anxious parents grouped together to press charges of abduction. Aum murdered Tsutsumi Sakamoto, the lawyer acting for them, together with his wife and young son. That same year, Aum successfully applied for charitable tax status as a recognised religion. In June 1994, a "poisoning incident" at a town called Matsumoto killed seven and made 200 ill; police failed to follow up a tip-off that Aum was responsible. The cult's headquarters were sporadically raided, but systematically investigated only after the Tokyo sarin attacks. Japan is the most law-abiding of countries; the trauma of this failure to enforce the law will linger long after this bizarre trial has become history.

RING OF BROWN WATER

The return of the otter is an indicator of nature's renewal

The otter has come back to the lower reaches of the Thames. It has not been seen here for a generation, and there were fears that it had been wiped out by pollution, pesticides and the pressure of humans up the Thames valley. But spraints (old otter language for droppings) have been found on the river banks near Reading, indicating that otters have been there for at least two weeks in their breeding season. This confirms the evidence given by returning salmon and other fish, and even a short-lived seal, that the Thames is cleaner and that pollution is dwindling.

Spraints is a medieval hunting term. England's most mysterious mammal was surviving in the Thames long before the Romans rowed up it. The first English hunters loved their quarry before they killed it. And their first manuals of venery or hunting, such as *The Book of St Albans*, printed in 1486, distinguish between the deer, the boar, the fox and the otter with particular names of multitude and other jargon. Old huntsmen, however, did not drive out the otter. Its killers were modern pesticides, the removal of vegetation to build bankside homes for Reading commuters, the dearth of fish and the superfluity of man.

Otters have long been favourite symbols of an idealised Arcadia when the Thames supposedly ran silver between green banks. Flowing over that muddy bottom, it was never either silver or sweet. Falstaff could tease Mistress Quickly affectionately as an otter because she was neither fish nor flesh, "and a man knows not where to have her".

British anthropomorphic books often had otter heroes, and with some reason. For they are furry, handsome, intelligent and agile. Unlike almost all other mammals, otters are playful, even as adults. They frolic in grass, slide down river banks, and throw stones into the water, diving to catch them as they sink. Females call their whelps in the spring with a maternal whistle.

But contrary to their cuddly nursery appearance, otters would not have outlasted the wolf and the wild boar, and seen off the immigrant mink and the alien coypu, if they were not also extraordinarily efficient killers. They are the ferocious tigers of their ecosystem. They can swim for a quarter of a mile under water and run faster than a man on dry land. They are sabre-toothed water-weasels, predators which can range as far as from Reading to Oxford for their fishing.

Otters are making a come-back not just at Reading but throughout English rivers and other waterways. Last year they were reported at 687 sites, four times as many as there were 15 years ago. They are tough and resourceful old native animals. And British waters are becoming slowly cleaner by legislation, conservation and public concern about the environment. Nevertheless, our Reading otters would be wise to colonise upstream rather than down to London, at any rate until the millennium party is over. Being such slippery survivors, they will.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Labour policies new and old

From Dr Kenneth Swinburne

Sir, Your leading article of April 19, "Looking-glass Labour", highlights three facts which are critical for the future of Britain: that the Shadow Cabinet is only about a third Blairite, that the Parliamentary Labour Party also has Blairites in the minority, and that fewer than half the activists and trade unionists who attend conference are converted to their leaders' way of thinking.

This means that the underlying power structure of "new" Labour is broadly hostile to Mr Blair, is imbued with the attitudes of old Labour, but is willing to operate under a false prospectus to win the general election.

Should Labour gain power, therefore, what will happen if Mr Blair, God forbid, falls under a bus?

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH SWINBURNE,
16 Foxhill Crescent, Weetwood Lane,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.
April 20.

From Mr R. L. Clifford

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky is not correct in his assertion that the days are long gone when socialists believed that capitalism exists to expropriate the justly earned fruits of labour ("How Labour would try to change the ways of business", Business, April 18).

Capitalism still seeks to employ as few people as possible for as small a reward as the employer can get away with. All the transitions called "privatisation" have demonstrated that nothing changes.

I think Mr Kaletsky may have confused socialism with the beliefs of new Labour, which are, of course, not the same thing at all.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. CLIFFORD,
25 Deben Drive, Sudbury, Suffolk.
April 18.

From Mr Nigel G. Meek

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky (article, April 19) quotes a Labour Party adviser asking "Why was the Prussian Army better than the Italian Army?" The answer is simple: a rigidly hierarchical and authoritarian society, which inculcated in its citizens, from cradle to grave, an ethos of deference and blind obedience.

If this is the model upon which "new Labour" is to be based then it seems remarkably similar to "old Labour" socialism: top-down direction, contempt for individual choice and a devastating erosion of personal responsibility.

Yours faithfully,
N. G. MEEK,
58 Burnt Ash Lane, Bromley, Kent.
April 19.

From Mr Gerald Kaufman, MP for Manchester, Gorton (Labour)

Sir, "It is ridiculous to compare Blair to Gaitskell", writes Woodrow Wyatt (April 23). Quite right.

Gaitskell tried to dump Clause Four of the Labour Party's constitution and failed. Blair decided to dump Clause Four and succeeded.

Gaitskell made advance commitments on tax which proved disastrous. Blair refuses to make advance commitments on tax and demonstrates prudence.

In his first and only general election as leader of the party, Gaitskell led Labour to a landslide defeat. In his first general election as party leader, Blair will lead Labour to the first of a series of victories.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD KAUFMAN,
House of Commons.
April 23.

From Mr Michael Smith

Sir, Why does Mr Mawhinney continue to expect us to believe that the Labour Party is the party of high taxation ("Prescott tells Short to toe line or resign", report, April 22)? It is certainly true that levels of income tax have come down under the Conservatives; but most Britons under this Government are mentally unable to determine how much tax they are actually paying today because they are paying it indirectly.

Indirect taxation is a wicked instrument of fiscal policy because it penalises everyone — including so-called middle-income earners. It is particularly insidious because it attacks the poor and families of all but the very highest income brackets, who are struggling to bring up children to support the next generation.

Whilst public ignorance of government taxation levels is clearly an advantage to Mr Mawhinney, he should not assume that the public will remain as ignorant of Conservative tax promises as they were in the last election. Let there be no mistake: there is only one party of high (and unfair) taxation and that is the party in government today.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL SMITH,
37 High Oak Road,
Ware, Hertfordshire.
April 22.

From Mr R. C. Littlefield

Sir, Now that it looks as if we might get a Labour government before too long, can you suggest what type of products I should begin to stockpile?

Yours faithfully,
R. C. LITTLEFIELD,
3 Welbeck Close,
Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire.
April 22.

With Kenwood's interests at heart

From Mr George Levy and Lord Hutchinson of Lullington, QC

Sir, In your reports concerning the Friends of Kenwood AGM (April 15 and 18) Sir Jocelyn Stevens, Chairman of English Heritage, appears to question our credentials. Certain relevant facts should be placed on record regarding our status for expressing opinions.

In 1985, at the time of the abolition of the GLC, the Government made it clear that it wished English Heritage, as an administrative trustee of the Iveagh Bequest, to have an independent liaison group with them, representing the interests of the Friends of Kenwood and the other London historic house museums. The terms of reference for its ten members were "to liaise with English Heritage on matters of public concern affecting the management and organisation of the London Historic House Museums".

Sadly, Mr Julius Bryant, Director of Collections at English Heritage, does not mention in his letter of April 22 that until very recently English Heritage not only continued the GLC's excellent "administrative centre for the Historic Houses Division" at Kenwood but strengthened it by a specific Museums Division, also based there.

It is precisely English Heritage's decision to dismantle that division, substituting it with a managerial team in Oxford Street, with a curator only visiting Kenwood on average twice a week, that is the reason for all our concerns.

It is ironic that at the present moment, because of the Friends' unanimous view that there should either be a curator based at Kenwood or, at the very least, that English Heritage's director of collections should have authority over it, that Sir Jocelyn Stevens has forbidden his staff to even communicate with the liaison group.

We very much regret that Sir Jocelyn has sought to personalise our attempt to express these serious concerns felt by so many of those who have the interests of Kenwood at heart and who fear for the future care of the collection.

We can see no reason why, with goodwill, sensible and civilised discussion, these fears could not be allayed. We therefore hope that Sir Jocelyn will find it possible to restore the happy relationship which has so long obtained between ourselves, English Heritage and its staff.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY
(Chairman, London Historic
House Museums Liaison Group
and Friends of Kenwood),
JEREMY HUTCHINSON
(Chairman, London Historic House
Museum Trust, 1986-1993),
The Iveagh Bequest,
Kenwood, Hampstead Lane, NW3.
April 22.

From Mr Jacob Simon

Sir, In place of the vision of the last 50 years with an active curator at Kenwood and an ongoing exhibition programme, what does English Heritage offer? On recent form, room closures, staff cuts, an absentee curator and key pictures removed from display.

And the future? More "revenue-earning activities" was the promise of English Heritage's regional director at the recent AGM of the Friends of Kenwood; hence a second shop and attempts to make the house more lettable at the expense of its historic integrity. Is it appropriate, by the way, to hold parties in rooms hung with some of the nation's finest Old Master paintings?

What is now required for Kenwood are independent trustees who put the house and its collections first, either with national museum funding status, as at the Wallace Collection, or independent charitable trustees, as at Dulwich Picture Gallery.

Yours faithfully,
JACOB SIMON
(Assistant Curator,
Kenwood, 1973-83),
59 College Cross, N1.
April 23.

Human rights reform

From Sir Edward du Cann

Sir, The news that the European Community cannot accede to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Law Report, April 16) coincides with the Lord Chancellor's timely visit to Strasbourg seeking reforms of the European Court of Human Rights (report, April 9).

There is some impatience in Britain at what Sir Michael Davies calls "the wilder excesses" of the court (letter, April 17: see also letter, April 22). This impatience, sometimes merited, sometimes not, should not be allowed to obscure the significance of the Convention and its achievements.

The Convention stemmed from the universal wish after 1945 to provide a bulwark against totalitarian regimes and the continuing advance of communism. It was a statement of the principles of personal freedom and justice for which Western European states traditionally stood, Britain not least: a proper reaction to the serious violations of human rights which were the tragedy of Europe during the Second World War.

Reforms may well be necessary in the European court, but the need for the Convention as a declaration of intent on the part of contracting parties is undeniable. Human rights are too often violated and in too many countries, not least in Europe itself, as we have so sickeningly observed in Yugoslavia.

The Convention is also an essential protection for individuals who, sadly, may find it difficult or impossible to obtain justice from their domestic courts — even in Britain. It is shaming that the European court has ruled against British justice more often than against any other signatory of the Convention.

Guarantees of human rights are only valuable when they are enforceable in national law. It should be a prime aim of British foreign policy to press other nations to sign the Convention and of domestic policy to assimilate the Convention into British law.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD du CANN,
11 Barton Street, SW1.
April 22.

Ownership of FT

From Sir Geoffrey Owen

Sir, William Rees-Mogg ("Serve the readers, not the institutions", April 22) criticises Pearson's ownership of the *Financial Times* as unadventurous, citing among other things the failure to buy *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* when they were available.

An alternative view is that the commercial success of the *FT* (in marked contrast, say, to *The Times*) reflects Pearson's wise decision to build on its strengths as a specialist newspaper and not to expand by acquisition.

Opinions may differ about the impact of interventionist proprietors on editorial quality, but it can hardly be denied that Pearson's consistent and supportive style of ownership allowed the *FT* to establish a position in the world market, based on the excellence of its reporting and analysis, which is envied by other newspaper groups.

This was not the product of weak management, but an aggressive and well executed response to a commercial opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY OWEN
(Editor, *Financial Times*, 1981-90),
London School of Economics
and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.
April 22.

Birds in decline

From Mr O. C. Carruthers

Sir, Your checklist of the decline in the numbers of certain British song-birds (report, April 18) was hardly surprising. Have you matched it against the increase in the number of birds which might prey upon the declining songsters?

Possibly not all the numbers are available, but general observation leads me to believe in an increase in crows, magpies and jays — not to mention the grey squirrel. Research might show a correlation.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER CARRUTHERS,
25 Beacon Hill, N7.
April 18.

Steam heat

From Mrs Elizabeth Battrick

Sir, In view of the reassessment of archaeological evidence from the old palace of Whitehall (report, April 16; letter, April 20) it is perhaps interesting to note that Henry VIII was not the only one to enjoy a Turkish bath in the Tudor era.

The Company of Mines Royal of Keswick, a German firm licensed by Queen Elizabeth to engage in copper mining, records in its accounts the building of a men's bathroom in March 1569. John Fisher of Keswick had the contract, which included digging the foundations and paving the floor. The men were to repay the expense out of club money and fines.

A contemporary historian, Fynes Morison, notes "the use of Bathes is frequent in Germany . . . They have publike Stones or hott houses in each citty".

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH BATTRICK,
Skiddaw Cottage,
Vicarage Hill, Keswick, Cumbria.
April 22.

Uncoordinated

From Mr Alan Blyth

Sir, It is odd that Sir John Burgh should choose this of all moments (letter, April 19) to draw attention to his National Opera Co-ordinating Committee when this very week Covent Garden and English National Opera (ENO) are presenting the same opera, *Tosca* — a prime example surely of a lack of co-ordination among our subsidised companies.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BLYTH,
22 Shilling Street,
Lavenham, Suffolk.
April 21.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Second thoughts on BBC 'Thought'

From Canon Michael Saward

Sir, You report today that three well-known clergy are to be dropped from the BBC's "Thought for the Day" for offering comments that are "too simplistic" on political issues. Nearly ten years ago I was dropped from the same team for being "too religious" in the thirty or so pieces which I did.

Shortly before my demise I saw a memo on a BBC staff noticeboard which, in effect, instructed the programme-makers to change "Thought for the Day" into a "thought about today's news". I pointed out to a senior BBC executive that this would force speakers into the area of controversial political and ethical issues and that this would, in due course, lead to a demand for the "Thought" and its Thinkers to be dropped for being "too politically controversial".

My prediction has been fulfilled. It is an open secret that many in the BBC would love to get rid of "Thought" altogether. They have succeeded in reducing its length from its original five minutes or so to half that time. The latest move is merely the next stage on its road to extinction.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SAWARD,
6 Amen Court, EC4.
April 24.

From Mr M. D. Varcoe-Cocks

Sir, Your editorial today, calling for more of the spiritual rather than temporal in the *Today* programme's "Thought for the Day" slot, ignores the real question: what is this "2½-minute moral or religious meditation" doing in the middle of what is otherwise a news programme? I have no objection to programmes on religious or moral issues, but would be surprised if *The Moral Maze* or a Sunday service was interrupted by a news bulletin except in an emergency.

I was amused to learn from your reporter that this slot is "popular": its onset has always been my cue to shave, shower or turn for a few minutes to another station for continued *news*.

Yours faithfully,
M. D. VARCOE-COCKS,
5 Brackenbury Road, W6.
April 24.

Rail franchises

From the Director of Passenger Rail Franchising, Opraf

Sir, Sue Cameron's article today, "Arm's length, but still too hands on", argues for "a clearer and more open definition of responsibilities" between ministers and appointed officials. This is exactly what exists in the case of railway franchising. The Secretary of State can give me instructions and guidance, which are public; and I am accountable for how I work within them. This has worked well: ministers have respected the boundary line and I work closely with them on the many areas where our responsibilities overlap.

I determined three years ago that I would set up Opraf, the contractual arrangements for the passenger railway and the process for selling franchises, so that they would work well; and then hand over to a successor for a more steady-state management role. Ms Cameron is wrong to suggest that civil servants decided "I had to go". I have always been clear about my intentions and I kept ministers informed well in advance of my public statement.

Within the last month I have announced the award of a further four franchises. Each one has demonstrated value for the taxpayer and improving service for passengers. Recent press coverage suggests that people are now beginning to recognise that I will have reached the targets I set myself by the time I leave in the autumn.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER SALMON,
Franchising Director,
OPRAF (Office of Passenger
Rail Franchising),
Golding's House,
2 Hay's Lane, SE1.
April 23.

Conduct unbecoming

From Mr Jason Amesbury

Sir, Do Mr Giles Coren and Sir Hardy Amies ("The truth about Tony Blair's legs", April 19) consider it the behaviour of a gentleman to go around looking up other fellows' trouser legs?

Yours,
JASON AMESBURY,
J. Amesbury & Co
(Bespoke shoemakers),
32 Elder Street, E1.
April 19.

Services' pecking order

From Mr J. D. B. Read

Sir, The Royal Navy used to hold that one difference between the Services (letter, April 22) was illustrated by the jerseys worn at Twickenham for the Army-Navy game. The Army were reputed to play in red so that their blood would not show; the Navy turned out in blue for the same reason.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY READ,
Downlands, Workhouse Lane,
East Meon, Petersfield, Hampshire.
April 22.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 24: The President of Mongolia and Mrs Tsezelmaa visited The Queen.

Her Majesty held a Council at 12.40pm.

There were present: the Rt Hon Antony Newton MP (Lord President), the Viscount Cranborne (Lord Privy Seal), the Baroness Trumpington (Baroness in Waiting), the Rt Hon *Michael Howard MP (Secretary of* State for the Home Department) and the Rt Hon Sir George Young, Bt, MP (Secretary of State for Transport).

Mr Nigel Nicholls was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP had an audience of The Queen before the Council.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Dinner Party at which The Prince Edward and The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon were present.

The following were invited: His Excellency the High Commissioner for Namibia and Mrs Nghiwete, the Right Reverend Cormac Murphy O'Connor, Mr and Mrs Robin Cook, the Lord Belstead, the Lord and Lady Deedes, Professor *Sir Martin and* Lady Rees, Sir Brian and Lady Pearse, the Very Reverend and Mrs Patrick Mitchell and Mr and Mrs Marcus O'Lone.

The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon attended the Thames Salmon Trust's *Luncheon* at *Fishmongers'* Hall, London EC4.

The Queen was represented by the Lord Lucas of Crudwell (Lord in Waiting) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Viscount Watkinson (a former Cabinet Minister) which was held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster, today.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 24: The Princess Royal, President of Patrons, Crime Concern, this morning launched the Portsmouth *Safer Cities Project on board HMS Warrior* Her Majesty's Naval Base, Portsmouth, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mrs Mary Fagan).

Her Royal Highness later visited the Young Men's Christian Association *National* Centre and opened the Sir Alec Rose Sports and Activities Hall at Fairthorne Manor, Curdridge, Southampton, Hampshire.

The Princess Royal this evening attended a *Charity Fashion Show* for the Zoological Society of London and London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 24: The Prince of Wales this morning arrived in Churchill, Manitoba, and was received by the Honourable Gary Filmon (Premier of Manitoba).

His Royal *Highness* witnessed the official signing of a Federal-Provincial Agreement creating the new Wapusk National Park at the *Churchill Town Centre Complex.*

The Prince of Wales later visited staff and patients of the Churchill Hospital, attended a Reception given by the People of Churchill, and subsequently visited Fort Prince of Wales on the Churchill River.

His Royal Highness this afternoon arrived in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and was received by the Honourable W. Yvon Dumont, the Lieutenant Governor.

Following the official arrival ceremony, The Prince of Wales attended a Reception for Members of the Legislative Assembly in the Rotunda of the Legislative Building.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Dinner given by the Premier of Manitoba at the Westin Hotel, Winnipeg.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 24: The Princess of Wales, Patron, The Commonwealth Society for the Deaf, this morning received Brigadier John Davis (Chief Executive) at *Kensington Palace.*

April 24: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this afternoon visited Knowle Church of England Junior and Infant School, Knowle, Solihull.

Her Royal Highness was received by Mr Bruce Tanner (Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands).

April 24: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, the Black Country Museum, this morning opened the cast iron houses at the Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley, and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

Afterwards His Royal Highness visited Soho House, Soho Avenue, Handsworth, and subsequently visited *the Jewellery Quarter Discovery* Centre, 77-79 Vyse Street, Hockley, Birmingham.

Later The Duke of Gloucester visited the Castle Vale Housing Action Trust to celebrate the rebuilding of the central area of Castle Vale *and to launch the Castle Vale* Community Resources Centre, Birmingham.

The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon attended the Lord Mayor's Fashion Show, in aid of St John Ambulance, at Mansion House, London EC4.

YORK HOUSE
April 24: The Duke of Kent, Grand Master, this afternoon attended the Annual Investiture of the United Grand Lodge of England, at *Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street,* London WC2, followed by dinner at the Savoy Hotel, London WC2.

The Duchess of Kent this evening attended a charity concert in aid of the Passage Day and Night Centre, at the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 24: *Princess Alexandra* was represented by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Viscount Watkinson which was held today in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will attend the Board of Management meeting and visit the offices and showrooms at 5 Portland Place, W1, at 10.30; and will attend the *Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine* Vice-Presidents' dinner at the Tate Gallery Liverpool, at 6.30.

Princess Margaret, as President of the Guide Association, will give a reception for Queen's Guides at Kensington Palace at 5.00.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Trustee of the British Museum, will open an exhibition at the Museum of Mankind, W1, at 6.10.

The Duchess of Gloucester will visit Eastholm School, Reeves Way, Peterborough at *12.30;* will visit the International Children's Trust, 50 Willesden Avenue, at 1.25; will open new buildings at the Caverstede Nursery School, Paston, Peterborough, at 1.56; and will open the Iceni Unit at the County Hospital, Doddington, Cambridgeshire, at 3.15.

The Duke of Kent will attend the final of the Donatella Flick conducting competition at the Barbican at 7.20.

The Duchess of Kent will open the sports complex at St Edward's College, *Sandfield Park, Liverpool,* at 11.20; will open the paediatric intensive care unit and education centre at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, at 12.25; and will visit Scientific Hospital Supplies International, Wavertree Boulevard, Wavertree Technology *Park,* at 2.45.

Birthdays today

Professor R.F. Boucher, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, UMIST, 56; Mr Eric Bristow, darts player, 39; Sir Robin Cater, former chairman, Distillers Company, 77; Mr Anthony Christopher, trade unionist, 71; Mr David *de Peyer, former director-general,* Cancer Research Campaign, 62; Mr Ellis Douek, otologist, 62; Sir Geoffrey Ellerton, former chairman, Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 76; Dr T.E. Faber, chairman, Geoffrey Faber Holdings, 69; Miss Ella Fitzgerald, jazz singer, 78; Dr John Fox, medical statistician, 50; Lord Gladwyn, 96; Lord Hayter, 85; Sir Paul Judge, former director general, Conservatve Party, 47; Mrs Janet King, former Governor, *Holloway Prison, 46; the Earl of* Lichfield, 57; Mr John V. Light, Rector, Edinburgh Academy, 48; Mr Ian McCartney, MP, 45; Mr David Machin, Under Treasurer, Gray's Inn, 72; Lady Marre, former chairman, BBC and IBA Central Appeals Advisory Committee, 76; Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir Godfrey Milton-Thompson, 66; Judge Marian Norrie, 56; Mr Al Pacino, actor, 56; Judge Helen Paling, 63; Mr David Shepherd, artist, 65; Lord Skidelsky, 57; *Sir Francis Graham-Smith, former* Astronomer Royal, 73; Mrs Linda Stone, former president, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 45; Mr Peter Sutherland, *managing-director,* Goldman Sachs International, 50; Mrs V.E. Sutherland, *diplomat,* 57.

Walking tour visits ten survivors of the Great Fire

Rare chance to see the City's churches

O City city, I can sometimes
hear
Beside a public bar in
Lower Thames Street,
The pleasant wining of a
mandolin
And a clatter and a chatter
from within
Where fishmen lounge at
noon; Where the walls
Of Magnus Martyr hold
Inexplicable splendour of
Ionian white and gold

IN THE 74 years since T.S. Eliot wrote *The Wasteland,* the City of London has altered unrecognisably (John Young writes). Fortunately most of its wonderful churches, such as St Magnus Martyr, have survived, and today and tomorrow there will be a rare opportunity for the public to visit 36 of the 39 which still stand, *several of which are seldom open.*

Friends of the City Churches have organised two day-long walks which will take in all the churches with the exception of St Mary Woolnoth which, as recently reported in *The Times,* is being restored; St Katharine Cree, closed for an episcopal inquiry; and St Ethelreda's, largely destroyed by an IRA bomb.

The tour also includes what is considered to be the finest historic synagogue in London: Bevis Marks, which reopened last Thursday after extensive restoration.

In the 17th century there were 103 churches within the Square Mile, of which 80 were destroyed or severely damaged in the Great Fire. Most were rebuilt under the direction of Sir Christopher Wren and his pupils.

But a fresh wave of destruction took place when the Victorians *ruthlessly replaced churches with* office buildings. Luftwaffe bombs in the Second World War also exacted their toll, and just 23 Wren churches stand where once there were 51.

In the last half-century the City churches have been recognised and zealously cherished as one of Britain's great architectural treasures. They are notable not just for their graceful shapes contrasting with, and alas, usually overshadowed by, their towering glass and concrete neighbours but also for their splendid interiors rich in carved woodwork, plasterwork and monuments. Ten are mediaeval *survivors of the Great Fire,* including St Andrew Undershaft, which Sir John Betjeman praised as the most stately in the City.

The almost complete disappearance of the residential population has compounded the problems of maintenance. Since 1952 the area has been reorganised into 22 parishes, some with more than one church, while 11 buildings have been designated Guild Churches in the care and protection of Livery companies. Only St Giles Cripplegate can claim a traditional congregation, supplied by residents of the Barbican, although St Mary-le-Bow in Cheapside, and St Bride's just off Fleet Street, have energetically pursued a pastoral role. Others attract worshippers to mid-week services but are locked and deserted on Sundays.

St Benet in Paul's Walk, the "Welsh" church, and St Peter Cornhill are open only by arrangement. St Sepulchre-without-Newgate and St Mary Aldermary are open between 11am and 2pm and 11am and 3pm on Wednesday and Thursday respectively, thanks to the efforts of a group called City Churches Watch. St Dunstan-in-the-West is open from Tuesday to Friday.

Encouragement has recently come from the Open Churches Trust, founded two years ago by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, which encourages churches to remain open for visitors by paying for the costs of guides and security.

The walk starts on both days at 10am from St Mary Aldermary, Watling Street, near Mansion House Tube station but can be joined at any point. The registration fee is £5.

PETER TREVNOR

The walks start at St Mary Aldermary Church, near Mansion House station

Memorial services

Viscount Watkinson, CH

The Queen was represented by Lord Lucas of Crudwell at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Viscount Watkinson, CH, held yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey. Princess Alexandra was represented by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy.

Canon Donald Gray, Chaplain to the Speaker, officiated and the Rev Tom Inman, Vicar of Bosham, led the prayers. Mr David Spicer, son-in-law, read the lesson and the Hon Mrs Barrie Musgrave, daughter, read from John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress.* Sir Adrian Cadbury gave an address.

The Lord Chancellor attended. The Prime Minister was represented by Lord McColl of Dulwich, the Speaker by Mr Michael Morris, Chairman of Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker, Sir Edward Heath, KG, MP, by Lord Aldington and the Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex by Mr Philip Stroud. Among others present were:

Viscountess Watkinson (widow), the Hon Mrs David Spicer (daughter), Mr Rowan Musgrave, Miss Mary Spicer, Miss Joanna Spicer, Mr and Mrs Rupert Jarvis and Alice Spicer (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs Christopher Pitts, Mr and Mrs W R Pitts, Mr Richard Pitts, Mr and Mrs Olaf Swarbrick, Mrs Alison Woodall, the Rev Anthony Kennedy, Mr Michael V Casey, Mr and Mrs Peter Langmead.

The Earl of Lauderdale, Viscount Caldecote, Viscount Long, Viscount Tonypandy, Viscount Whitelaw, KT, CH, Lady Aldington, Lord Bancroft, Lord Boardman, Lord Boyd-Carpenter, Lord Carr of Hadley, Lord Carrington, KG, CH, and Lady Carrington, Lord Clark of Kempston, Lord Colnbrook, Lord Elliott of Morpeth, Lord and Lady Erroll of Hale, Lord and Lady Fraser of Kilmorack, Lord Lane of Horsell, Lord Mottistone, Lord Murray of Epping Forest, Lord Newall, Lord Orr-Ewing, Lord Peyton of Yeovil, Baroness Pike, Lord Plummer of St Marylebone, Lord Pym, Lord Shaw of Northstead.

Mr John Biffen, MP, the Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, Mr Aubrey Jones, Sir Cranley Onslow, MP, and Lady Onslow, Mr James Ramsden, Sir Nicholas Scott, MP, Sir Charles Fergusson of Kilkerran, Lady Cadbury, Sir Michael Craig Cooper, Sir Hugh Cubitt, Sir Oscar and Lady DeVille, Sir Alexander and Lady Durie, Sir George Edwards, OM, Sir Campbell Fraser, Sir Reay Geddes, Sir Ronald McIntosh, Sir Michael Neubert, MP, Sir Michael Wheeler-Booth (Clerk of the Parliaments).

Major K G Adams, Mr Peter August, Mr Robert G Beldam, Mr Hartley Booth, MP, Mr and Mrs Basil E S Collins, Mr C H Dickens, Mr J H P Draper, Mr and Mrs James Forbes, Mr Harry Greenway, MP, Mrs J Hawke, Mr Edward James, Mr R J Kingsbury, Mr G E Knight, Mr Neil Mills, Mr Anthony Nelson, MP, Mrs S Norris, Major-General C E Page, Mr and Mrs M Pickard, Mr John Smoker, Mr B J F Theobald-Hicks, Mrs Eleanor E Thomas, Mr Paul Williams, Mr Michael Wilson.

Mr A J Beale (European Marketing Confederation), Mr Dominic Cadbury (chairman, Cadbury Schweppes) and Mrs Cadbury with Mr R A Henderson; Mr Maurice Hunt (deputy Director-General, CBI), Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith (deputy chairman, Midland Bank) and Mr I R W Elliott (Leader of Conservative Group, West Sussex County Council) with Mr Michael Holdsworth (County Secretary).

Mr A.C.W. Norman

A memorial service for Mr Antony Charles Wynyard Norman, OBE, was held on Wednesday, January 10, *at St Clement Danes. The Rev Peter* Bishop officiated, assisted by the Rev Richard McLaren. Sir Mark Norman, Bt, and The Lord Hastings read the lessons. Mr Michael Denison gave an address. Among those present were:

Mrs Antony Norman (widow), Lady Norman, Mr and Mrs Desmond Norman, Mr and Mrs Torquil Norman, The Hon Mrs Barbara Norman, Mr and Mrs Nigel Norman, Mr Rory Norman, Mme Stanislas Aubertin, The Lord and Lady Aberconway, The Hon Michael McLaren, Mrs Martin McLaren, Mr Kevin Burke, Mr and Mrs Paul Gunn, Miss Pauline Gunn, Mr Munro Gunn, Mr and Mrs Marcus Gunn, Miss Petronella Gunn, Miss Rosalind Gunn, Mrs Richard Fenning, Miss Nicola Packman, Mr Jeremy Norman, Mrs Peter Rickett, Mr Charles Egerton Warburton, Mr and Mrs George Pope, Miss Emily Pope, Miss Arabella Pope.

Jane Lady Abdy, Mr and Mrs Peter Adams, The Earl and Countess Alexander of Tunis, Mrs Ian Bailey, Mrs James Baker, The Viscountess Bearsted, The Hon Sir Clive Bossom, Mr and Mrs George Broderick, The Dowager Lady Delves Broughton, Mr and the Hon Mrs Edmund Brudenell, Mr Thomas Brudenell, Mr Francis Burne, Mr Peter Butler, Colonel and Mrs Derek Cardiff, Mr and Mrs W Cavendish, Mr Charles Cator, The Hon Charles and Mrs Cecil, The Comtesse de Chambrun, The Hon Lady Cooper-Key, Mrs Craig Smith, The Lord Cullen of Ashbourne, Group Captain John Cunningham, Mr and Mrs Edward Davies-Gilbert, Mrs Michael Denison, Sir Dermot and Lady de Trafford, The Hon Lady de Zulueta, Mr and Mrs Philip de Laszlo, Mrs Patrick de Laszlo, Mr and Mrs George Doughty, The Lady Duncan-Sandys, Mrs N Durlacher, Mrs Coulouthros Embiricos, Mr and Mrs Ian Farquhar, Mr and Mrs William Fisher, Brigadier General Denis FitzGerald, Mrs Donald Fraser, Mrs Willy Freund, The Lady Freyberg, The Lord Freyberg, Mr and Mrs Anthony Galliers-Pratt, Prince Emanuel Galitzine, Mrs Philip German-Ribon, Colonel and Mrs Gerard Leigh, Marshal of the RAF Sir John Grandy, Mrs Derek Hague, The Lady Hastings, Mr and Mrs Graham Harvey-Evers, The Hon Thomas and Mrs Hazlerigg, The Lady Iliffe, Mr Charles Jansen, The Hon Mrs Kitson, Mr and Mrs George Lane, Mr Charles Larking, Colonel David Laurie, Mrs Robert Lea, The Earl and Countess of Lisburne, The Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, Ruth Countess Lloyd George of Dwyfor, Mr Peter Maitland, Mrs Terence Maxwell, Mrs John Millar, Major and Mrs Murrough O'Brien, The Lord and Lady Orr-Ewing, Mr Jeremy Pemberton, Mr and Mrs David Raikes, Mr Michael Rawlence, The Lord Savile, Mr Charles Selby, Sir Reresby and Lady Sitwell, Mrs Shand-Kydd, Mr and Mrs Snoocke, Mr Michael Straur, The Hon James Stourton, Sir Richard and Lady Temple, The Lord and Lady Terrington, Mr and Mrs Ben Tyler, Baron Vaes, The Hon Michael and The Hon Mrs Vaughan, Lady Villiers, Mrs Diana Walker, Mr and Mrs Christopher Wells, Mr and The Hon Mrs Charles Wilson, Mr John Wolstenholme Rimmer and many other friends.

Mr David Tandy

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr David Tandy, Partner at Titmuss Sainer Dechert, was held yesterday at the Temple Church. Canon Joseph Robinson, Master of the Temple, officiated. Mr Paul Clark read the lesson and Mrs Shân Warnock-Smith gave an address.

Lord Airedale

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Airedale will take place in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster at 12.15pm on Tuesday, May 14, 1996. Those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets to: Miss Celia Thomas, Liberal Democrat Whips Office, House of Lords, SW1A 0PW enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted from May 7.

Professor the Hon Sir John Golding, OJ

A Memorial Service for Sir John Golding will be held at St Bartholomew-the-Great on Tuesday, April 30, at 2.30pm.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.H. Aizlewood
and Miss S.J. Stephenson
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Captain and Mrs Peter Aizlewood, of Brookend House, Moreton in Marsh, and Sarah, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Val Stephenson, of Henleaze, *Bristol.*

Mr A.S. Batley
and Miss S.L. Gain
The engagement is announced between Andrew, youngest son of Mr and Mrs A.H. Batley, of Bramley, Hampshire, and Sharon, elder daughter of the late Mr K.A. Gain and of Mrs Gain, of Rowledge, Surrey.

Mr L.M. Bretherton
and Miss C.J. Stocking
The engagement is announced between Luke, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Bretherton, of Holland Park, London, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Dan Stocking, of Chorleywood, Hertfordshire.

Mr M.R.D. Cornell
and Miss L.E. Gordon Lennox
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Brigadier and Mrs John Cornell, of Marlborough, Wiltshire, and Lucy, daughter of Lord and Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox, of Chichester, West Sussex.

Mr C.M. Curl
and Miss C.L. Thompson
The engagement is announced between Christopher Martin, elder son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Curl, of Canterbury, Kent, and Charlotte Louise, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs William Thompson, of Orpington, Kent.

Mr J.A. Davis
and Miss L.A. Locke
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs J.R.V. Davis, of Calne, Wiltshire, and Lindsey, daughter of Mr and Mrs N.A.S. Locke, of Mortimer, Berkshire.

Mr J.F.M. Findlay
and Miss S.E. d'Angibau
The engagement is announced between James, son of Dr and Mrs John Findlay, of Micklethwaite, Bingley, West Yorkshire, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs John d'Angibau, of Aldham, Colchester, Essex.

Mr N.A. Lightning
and Miss J.C. Prosser
The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Mr and Mrs Alec Lightning, of Duxford, Cambridgeshire, and Joanna, younger daughter of Sir Ian and Lady Prosser, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

Dr R.A. Lione
and Miss R.L. Whelan
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs A.N. Lione, of Hornchurch, Essex, and Rachel, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Robert Whelan, of Comberton, Cambridge.

Mr A.B. MacLeod
and Miss I.M. Boger
Dr and Mrs Richard Boger, of Steyning, West Sussex are delighted to announce the engagement of their younger daughter, Joey to Breac, elder son of Mr Iain Breac MacLeod, of Hook Norton, Oxfordshire, and Mrs Ceridwen MacLeod, of Hampton, Middlesex.

Captain G.J.P. Osmond, RA,
and Miss J.A. Hulley
The engagement is announced between Geoffrey, son of Mr P.A. Osmond, of Harrow, and Mrs Joan Osmond, of Kennington, London, and Joanne, youngest daughter of Mrs Dorothy Hulley, of Sheffield and the late Mr Geoffrey Hulley.

Mr D.T. Power
and Miss C.J. Awre
Françoise and Gerald Awre, of Bath, Somerset, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Catherine to Dunstan, son of Ursula and Gerald Power, of Altrincham, Cheshire.

Mr T.J. Regis
and Miss J.S. Hemming
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mrs Deirdre Regis and the late Mr Tom Regis, of Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire, and Jessica, daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Hemming, of Little Carlton, Lincolnshire.

Mr A.J.F. Sim
and Miss S.F. Godwin-Austen
The engagement *is announced* between Angus, son of Mr Campbell Sim, of Four Elms, Kent, and Louisa Harmer, of Applegarth, London, and Susan, youngest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and *Mrs* Robin Godwin-Austen, of Shalford, Surrey.

Mr G.A. Woodroffe
and Miss S. Armitage
The marriage will take place at noon, on Saturday, April 27, 1996, at St Margaret's Church, Fernhurst, of Guy Alexander Woodroffe and Sara Armitage.

Marriage

Commander B.H.C. Nation
and Mrs G.J. Cameron
The marriage took place yesterday, in London, between Commander Barry Nation and Mrs Jill Cameron.

School news

Clifton High School,
Bristol BS8 3JD
Term started on Tuesday, April 23, with Joanna Lawrence as Head Girl and Elizabeth James and Katie White as her Deputies, and ends with Rose Day on Saturday, July 6. The Annual Concert at St George's is on May 9; the Senior School Play *The House of Bernarda Alba* is on May 22 and 23, and the Middle School Musical *Alice* on June 25, 26 and 27. An Open Afternoon for prospective parents will be held on Wednesday, May 22, at 2pm.

Calford School
The Summer Term began yesterday. Matthew Grinham is the Captain of Cricket. University Forums will be held on Friday, May 3 and Friday, May 10. The 1st XI will play the MCC on Wednesday, May 15. The Open Day will be on Saturday, May 18 and the Summer Ball on Saturday, June 29. Term ends on Wednesday, July 3.

North Foreland Lodge
The Governors of North Foreland Lodge have appointed Miss Sue Cameron to be Headmistress with effect from September 1996 in succession to Miss Diana Matthews who will retire after 13 years as Headmistress of the School. Miss Cameron is currently Headmistress of Downe House School.

Port Regis
Port Regis requests the pleasure of the company of all OPRs at luncheon on Sunday, June 30, 1996, to celebrate the School's 75th Anniversary. Please contact the *Headmaster's* Secretary *for* details.

Service dinner

HMS President
Lord Howe of Aberavon, QC, was the principal guest and speaker at the annual reunion dinner of the *HMS President* RNVR and RNR Retired Officers' Association held last night onboard by courtesy of the commanding officer. Commander J G N T *Cosnett,* chairman, presided.

Luncheons

Carlton Club
Mr Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Political Committee of the Carlton Club held yesterday at the club.

PPP healthcare group
Sir Peter Gadsden, Chairman of the PPP healthcare group, presided at a luncheon held at Plaisterers' Hall yesterday after the AGM. The Lord Mayor, Alderman John Chalstrey, and Alderman and Sheriff Sir Peter Levene were present. The speakers were the Lord Mayor, Sir Peter Gadsden and Mr Peter Owen, Group Chief Executive.

Fuellers' Company
Alderman Sir Paul Newall was the principal guest at a livery luncheon of the Fuellers' Company held yesterday at Watermen's Hall. Mr Michael Bryer Ash, Master, presided and presented Sir Paul with the Honorary Freedom of the Company.

Dinner

Earl of Lauderdale
The Earl of Lauderdale entertained the Parliamentary Group for Energy Studies at dinner last night at the House of Lords. Mr George Kynoch, Minister for Industry and Local Government, Scotland, was the guest of honour.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Edward II, reigned 1307-27, Caernarvon, 1284; Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector 1653-58, *Huntingdon, 1599;* Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, engineer, Hacqueville, France, 1769; John Keble, a founder of the Oxford Movement, Fairford, Gloucestershire, 1792; C.B. Fry, sportsman, Croydon, 1872; Walter de la Mare, poet and novelist, Charlton, Kent, 1873; Guglielmo Marconi, physicist, Nobel laureate 1909, Bologna, 1874.

DEATHS: Anders Celsius, inventor of the Centigrade thermometer, Uppsala, Sweden, 1744; Sir Carol Reed, film director, London, 1976.

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Show yourself innocent and above reproach, faultless children of God in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in a crooked world.
Philippians 2 : 15 (REB)

BIRTHS

BYSOUTH - On 20th April 1996 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Susan and Gary, twin sons, George William and Charles William.

DICKSON - On Friday April 19th 1996 at 2.10 pm at The Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, to Jonathan and Ashanti (née Hettiaratchy), a son, Joshua Thomas Peter, a brother for Jessica and Kimberly.

GALE - On 19th April 1996, to Jane (née Kehoe) and Matthew, a daughter, Jessica, a sister for Eleanor.

GRIFFIN - On 12th April 1996, to Emma (née Wigglesworth) and Chris, a daughter, Sophie Georgina, a sister for Evie Olivia.

MARSHALL - On April 21st 1996 to Paula (Kidd) and Tim a daughter Anne Elizabeth (Annie).

MILLS - On Easter Sunday 7th April 1996, to Helen (née Foley) and Richard, a beautiful son, William Richard St. John.

MOORHEAD - On 21st April 1996, to Lucy (née Stevenson) and Robert, a daughter, Anna Margaret, a sister for Hugh.

MOULTON - On April 14th, to Oonagh (née Rees-Davies) and Thomas, a son, Oliver Charles Robert, a brother for Henry.

PENNY - To Helen and Russell, a son, Charles Russell, born 14th April.

SOUTH - On April 17th 1996 at St Thomas', London, to Alison (née Swallow) and Christopher, a son, Alexander George.

SPEZZOTTI - On April 21st at The Portland Hospital, to Alexandra (née Durazzano) and Edoardo, a son, Federico Luigi, a brother for Ettore and Francesco.

VILLENEUVE - On April 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Amelie, a beautiful daughter, Cassandra Celine Andree, thanks to Mr C. Naylor and the staff.

DEATHS

AUSTIN BROWN - On April 21st at home John Austin Brown T.D. aged 91. Private cremation.

BAILEY - E. Leslie M.B.E. aged 80 years on 22nd April 1996 after a long illness. Beloved husband of Lynn, father of Anne, grandfather of Victoria and Carolyn. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Warwick on Monday 29th April at 2.45pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations may be sent to Dr. Hill's Research Fund, c/o Warwick Hospital, Lakin Road, Warwick, CV34 5BW.

BIGGS - On 19th April 1996, peacefully, at The Grange Nursing Home, Sherborne St John, in her 90th year, Mary Conning (née Hartley), beloved wife of the late Raymond Henry Biggs. Funeral at the All Saints Church, Basingstoke, on Wednesday 1st May at 10.30am.

BRUSH - On April 24th, peacefully in hospital, Nell, dear wife of Harry. Funeral Service at Bournemouth Crematorium on Wednesday May 1st at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired for Guide Dogs for the Blind, may be sent c/o F.W. House & Sons, Funeral Directors, Lymington, Hants.

CAHILL - Roger peacefully on April 20th aged 84 years, formerly of Longford. Beloved husband of Hazel, dearly loved father of Nicholas and grandfather of Nicki, Maura and Edward. Funeral Service at Oxford Crematorium, Headington, on April 30th at 12.30 pm. *Flowers and enquiries to F.J.* Wilson, Greenway, Haddenham, Bucks. (01844) 291200.

DILLIWAY - Peacefully in hospital Cicely Marjorie aged 92 years of Parkstone, Dorset. Widow of Stewart Dilliway and dearly loved mother of Wendy, Josie, George and Noelle and a loving grandmother and great-grandmother. Cremation at Poole *Crematorium* on Friday 26th April at 1.30 pm. (No mourning at her request). Family flowers only. Donations for the RNIB may be sent to Tapper Funeral Service, 32-34 Parkstone Road, Poole, Dorset.

DILL - On 19th April 1996 aged 90 Nancy Isabelle Cecil Dill, widow of Brigadier Dennis Furlong D.S.O., M.C. and of Field-Marshal Sir John Dill G.C.B., sometime Chief of the Imperial General Staff, mother of Sonia Hunterston, daughter of Henry and Isabelle Charrington and last surviving grandchild of Spencer Charrington M.P. Memorial service only at Badminton Church, Badminton, Avon at 2.30 pm on 8th May 1996. No flowers or letters but contributions either to the Injured Jockeys' Fund of Welwyn, Hertfordshire or the Hunt Servants' Benefit *Society of* Parsloes Cottage, Bagendon, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 7DU.

HACKET PAIN - See Pain.

MAHON - On 22nd April 1996, gracefully and peacefully Anthony Francis Mahon KCSG., GCHS., beloved husband of Rosalie. Greatly loved and loving husband; father; grandfather and friend. Requiem Mass at St Benedicts Abbey, Ealing on Monday April 29th at 11.30 am. Eternal rest grant unto him. O Lord. St Anthony pray for him. Family flowers only, but if desired donations in his memory to Serra International, c/o A. France & Son, 45 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1N 3NH, tel: (0171) 405-4901.

MALLANDAINE - John St Quinton, peacefully at home on April 20th. Beloved father of Jean and husband of the late Edwina. Funeral Service to be held at the Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham on Friday, April 26th at 11.30am. Family flowers only, donations if wished to the Salvation Army c/o Great Missenden Funeral Services, 106 *High* Street, Great Missenden, Bucks., HP16 0BE.

MATHIAS - Marian Helen peacefully in Trowbridge on 23rd April in her 98th year, mother of Peter, sister of Kathleen, grandmother to Sam, Henry and Sophie and great-grandmother of Silas.

MILLAR - Angus George., Suddenly, but peacefully, at home in Edinburgh on 23rd April 1996. Angus George Millar, dear husband of Julia, father of James, Charles and Roderick, father-in-law of Kate and grandfather of Hector. A service will be held in the Main Chapel at Mortonhall Crematorium, Edinburgh, on Wednesday 1st May at 11am to which all who knew him are invited. Family flowers only.

MORT - On April 20th, peacefully after a very short illness, at her home of the last 24 years, near Portimao: Pamela, aged 77. Previously of The Sanctuary, Crediton. Greatly loved mother of Simon and grandmother of Harriet and Boy. Funeral has taken place quietly in Portugal. Donations, if desired, to Hunt Servants Fund, Parsloes Cottage, Bagendon, Cirencester GL7 7DU.

MUNBY - Mary widow of Denys Munby died peacefully at home on Sunday 21st April 1996. She is greatly missed by James, Frances, Katherine, Julian, Teresa, Charmian and her ten Grandchildren. Her funeral will be at Blackfriars, St Giles, Oxford at 1.30 pm on Monday 29th April followed by burial at Wolvercote Cemetery. Any enquiries to Reeves & Pain, 288, Abingdon Road, Oxford, tel: (01865) 242529.

NEWTON - Walter Lewis suddenly on 23rd April, dearly loved husband, father, grandfather and friend.

NOWELL-SMITH - Simon on 28th March at St Luke's Nursing Home, Oxford, aged 87. Memorial Service New College Chapel, Oxford, Saturday 11th May at 3 pm.

PAIN - On 19th April at home, Audrey in her 102nd year, beloved wife of the late Lt. Colonel Michell Hacket Pain, mother of Wyndham and Andrew, grandmother of Nicholas and Simon and great-grandmother of Wyndham. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Bramley, Surrey, at 2.30 pm Wednesday 1st May. Flowers and enquiries to Pimms Funeral Services, Mary Road, Guildford, tel: (01483) 274079.

PARK - Charles Kendall on 20th April. Much loved husband of Susan, father of Jonathan and Annabel and grandfather of Joshua. Cremation at Sheffield, followed by Thanksgiving Service on Friday May 3rd at 2.30 pm at All Saints Parish Church, Bakewell. Family flowers only.

PLATT - Stanley after short illness on 23rd April 1996, dearly loved husband of Dorothy and father of Barbara and Roger. Funeral St Mary's Church, High Street, Maidenhead, 1.30 pm 30th April. Donations if desired to Thames Valley Adventure Playground for Handicapped Children c/o Thicket House, Cherry Garden Lane, Maidenhead, SL6 3QE. No flowers please.

PUGH - Brian Philip, peacefully in hospital on 17th April 1996. Adored husband of Irene and widower of Natalie. Wonderful loving father to Nicholas and Caroline. Caring grandfather to Alex, Melanie, Natasha, Poppy, Ben, Elliott and Joshua. Wonderful stepfather to Adrian and Sean. Much loved and missed by family, friends and colleagues. Service of thanksgiving at Arundel Cathedral, Arundel, West Sussex, on Friday 3rd May at 3 pm followed by burial. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for medical research to Holland & Son, 16 Ash Lane, Rustington, West Sussex, 01903 713939.

RATTRAY - Suddenly but peacefully on 23rd April, Major Peter Edward Campbell aged 70. Late 7th Gurkha Rifles. Beloved Husband and Father. The funeral service will be held at *Hereford Crematorium* on Friday, 26th April, at 12.30pm. If desired donations for Weobley Health Centre may be sent to Dawe Bros., 115 Westfaling Street, Hereford.

STERICKER - On April 22nd 1996 peacefully Daphne Dorothea aged 79 years, formerly of Liskey, Tregrehan, Cornwall. Beloved wife of John (decd.), a dearly loved mother and grandmother. Private family cremation service on Tuesday April 30th followed by Thanksgiving Service at 3.30 pm St Mary's Church, Biscovey. Enquiries (01726) 75869.

WILKINSON - Thomas Geoffrey, Lt-Col. late D.L.I., of Cadogan Gardens, SW3. On Monday 22nd April 1996, peacefully at King Edward VII Hospital aged 80. Funeral Service at Mortlake Crematorium on Monday 29th April at 11.30 am. Flowers to J.H. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, W8.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

NOWELL-SMITH - A Service to commemorate the life of Simon Nowell-Smith who died on 28th March will be held in New College Chapel, Oxford, on Saturday 11th May at 3 pm.

IN MEMORIAM – WAR

BAKER - Harry R.M.L.I. The Chatham. To his memory and to his comrades the ANZACS who fell at Gallipoli 1915 and 1916.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

PYEFINCH - Kate Madeleine. In loving memory of Kit, born 25th April 1904.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

HUXTABLE:LEE-NORMAN - On April 25th 1956, John to Elizabeth (Bee).

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

HOWSE:WALLER - On April 25th 1946 at All Saints Church, Hove, Lt. Derek, DSC, RN, to Elizabeth de Warrenne. Now Sevenoaks, TN13 2AY.

WILLIAMS:STEER - On St Mark's Day 25th April 1946 in All Saint's Church, Wath-upon-Dearne, the Rev. I.M. Williams to Muriel M. Steer. Now in Ewelme, Oxfordshire. Deo Gratias.

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

AUSTRIA. Motivated chalet girl wanted urgently for this summer. Main job to help organise catering in a castle and adjacent Golf Club. Season May-October German speaking an advantage. Tel:01989 740622 fax 740611.

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BIRTHDAYS

IAN SLATER. Congratulations on your 30th Birthday today. Wishing you many happy returns & hoping that today is special for you.

JOHN FINN Printing consultant of Chester. At last fame, your name in print! Much love Sue.

M, Happy Birthday, my precious angel on your special day. Here's a toast with Sainsbury's best. AML 1488. Love, your spiky Anzac

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THURSDAY APRIL 25 1996

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amnesty on guns will last a month

Teachers to strike

Labour tax row

Drug girl, 12

OBITUARIES

SIR MICHAEL JOUGHIN

Sir Michael Joughin, CBE, chairman of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board (later Scottish Hydro-Electric), 1983-93, died from a heart attack on April 11 aged 69. He was born on April 26, 1926.

A MAN of great charm, with exceptional gifts of personal leadership, Michael Joughin was one of northern Scotland's best known businessmen. He led the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board with a sure political touch and fought its corner with tenacity in the run-up to privatisation.

Joughin also gave devoted and tireless service to agriculture. He became well known to Grampian Television viewers as the original presenter of its farming programme, *Country Focus*, where his ability to get to the nub of things and to express ideas in striking, pungent language was every bit as impressive as it proved in the boardroom. It was while working as a TV presenter that Joughin received what he later referred to as the best piece of advice he had ever had: "Remember, that chap you are talking to is trying to de-bone a kipper."

Even up into his last years, Joughin was seldom out of the headlines. As chairman of his local community council, he had many jousts with the New Age community which he believed was swamping the village of Findhorn on the Moray Firth.

Michael Joughin was born in Devon and educated at Kelly College, Tavistock. At the age of 17 he joined the Royal Marines and as a young lieutenant witnessed the Japanese surrender of Penang. Later he flew as a carrier-based RM pilot and trained recruits for the Royal Marine Commandos. But when in 1952 he ditched in the sea off Malta and, as he put it, "bent an aircraft and bent a leg", he was invalided out.

Joughin took up farming at first but soon found that 700 acres of dairy and arable land near Elgin were too small to contain all his energies. It was thus that he began to make an impact on public life. From 1964 to 1966 he was president of the NFU of Scotland. He also chaired numerous bodies, including the North of Scotland Agriculture College, Blairmore Preparatory School, the North of Scotland Grassland Society, the Elgin auction company and the regional milk marketing board as well as serving on the council of the Rowett Research Institution in Aberdeen and on many other boards in the agricultural sector.

When Joughin became chairman of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board — the generator and supplier of electricity to the North of Scotland, the Highlands and the Islands — he said, with characteristic modesty, that he knew nothing about electricity: he had said the same about farming when he had taken that up. But his state of ignorance did not last for long. He was soon able to calculate, by its thickness, the weight of ice forming on overhead lines, having gleaned much information by listening to linesmen's conversations on two-way radio.

A myth has grown up in Scotland that the South of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board — supplying the rest of the country — tried to take over the northern hydro board before privatisation. The facts are otherwise. Joughin, as chairman of the northern hydro board, was also a member of the board of its southern opposite number and gave general support to the South of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board's pre-privatisation analysis, which was sent to the Secretary of State for Scotland in 1984. This took the view that the two boards should be combined into one company. Administrative savings would mean cheaper electricity and the company would be strong enough to resist a takeover.

The policy was supported by senior officials at the Scottish Office but, by the time the matter came to Cabinet, the Secretary of State, Malcolm Rifkind, had suffered a serious political reverse because of the Tories' poor showing north of the border in the 1987 general election (they got just ten seats out of 72). As a result, Rifkind lost standing with Margaret Thatcher, as her memoirs make clear, and she forced through her instinctive, but spurious, conviction that two companies would create competition in Scotland. Rifkind, believing discretion to be the better part of valour, quietly dropped the strategy endorsed by his officials.

The results were distinctly messy. The Government had to retain a golden share to protect the new companies from takeover. Fraught negotiations took place between the two boards about the allocation of assets. Joughin was tough but fair, and his personal relationship with the chairman of the southern board, Sir Donald Miller, remained warm.

Appointed CBE in 1971, Joughin was knighted in 1991. He retired two years later, having considerably mollified critics of post-privatisation boardroom greed by donating half his salary increase to charity.

He had unsuccessfully stood as a Conservative candidate for the Highlands and Islands seat in the European Parliament in 1979; and while his talents never found the big stage they perhaps deserved, he flung himself, after retirement, into the passionate controversies of the parish pump.

For the last three years of his life he was chairman of Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council. He strenuously opposed permission for an expansion planned by the Findhorn Foundation, the New Age settlement which he feared was taking over the village.

In the summer his small boat was moored in the bay outside his house but he no longer undertook the adventurous voyages of his younger days, when he sailed as far as North West Europe and Scandinavia. Now he preferred to return, of an evening, to the comfort of his own home.

Much has been written about the tensions between Highlanders and "white settlers", but Joughin confounded the stereotype. He was held in the greatest affection throughout the North of Scotland and beyond.

He is survived by his wife, Anne Hutchison, whom he married in 1981, and by the son and daughter of his first marriage to Lesley Roy Petrie, which was dissolved.

DAVID SHIPMAN

David Shipman, film historian, died from a heart attack on April 22 aged 63. He was born on November 4, 1932.

ALTHOUGH he was never the resident critic for any broadsheet newspaper, David Shipman's reputation as a film historian was quite secure. Alongside his occasional journalism and film biographies, stood three excellent books written under the heading *The Great Movie Stars*. The first of these *The Golden Years* appeared in 1970. Two years later there followed *The International Years* and then, after a twenty-year gap, the third in the trilogy, *The Independent Years* (1991). These three books have never been out of print, a remarkable feat considering that film compendia are superseded every year by ever more voluminous companion guides.

The books comprised short, critical biographies of film stars — a format which Shipman pioneered — written in an opinionated, gossipy manner. Shipman made it a rule never to write about a film unless he had first seen it, and he had an elephantine memory for those films he had watched.

He was meticulous in his dress — he would not dream of wearing an open shirt, even in the hottest weather — and usually wore a bow tie or cravat. Some of the harmless personal vanity that went into his appearance came through in his writing. If he did not like a certain actor, then he would be summarily excluded from his work. Roger Moore and George Brent, for instance, whom he believed were plastic on screen, never made it into Shipman's books. Sometimes Shipman could seem blinkered about contemporary cinema. He admired the versatility of the old school of stars, actors like Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire, the latter of whom referred to his acting as "the job".

What fascinated Shipman was not acting, but that elusive quality which made certain men and women stars. He admired Marilyn Monroe, and appreciated that transcendent quality about her which had nothing to do with her acting. He was balanced in his appraisal of Elizabeth Taylor but quite cool towards Barbra Streisand. Streisand did not possess, in his estimation, that indefinable quality by which a star such as Judy Garland could involve the audience. He made Judy Garland the subject of a biography in 1992.

His passion for film began as an adolescent. The son of a sales representative for an electrical supply company, he was educated in a grammar school in south London, and, after National Service during which he was stationed in Singapore, at Merton College, Oxford, where he read English. Even at this age he was keeping exhaustive notes on every film he saw. He went into publishing, as a representative for publishing companies such as Gollancz and Methuen. This entailed a good deal of travelling on the Continent, and Shipman would pass the evenings watching French films. Sometimes, when he knew a particularly good film was showing in Britain which he had not seen, he would cross the Channel for the evening to watch it. Then, after dinner with a friend who was working at Hamlyn on the new film list, he suggested the idea of the first part of his trilogy, *The Golden Years*. This was published in 1970, and was followed by the other two books in that series.

Shipman made his living by writing from then on. There was *Hollywood Talk* (1988) for Bloomsbury, on who said what about whom in films; a revised biography, based on his earlier monograph, of Marlon Brando; a book on sex in the cinema; and recently he was completing a book about Fred Astaire. He also wrote obituaries for *The Independent*. In these, as in all his writing, he had the ability to capture an actor through the occasional gesture or fleeting impression, and to do so succinctly and vividly. Not even the career of the most minor supporting actor had escaped his attention.

Since 1965 Shipman lived in Callow Street in Chelsea with his partner Felix Brenner, who researched for him and edited his manuscripts in their early stages, and who survives him. His office contained a huge but characteristically orderly library including 42 looseleaf volumes containing notes on the 8,000 films he had seen, arranged in alphabetical order. When he was not working, he liked to travel and to visit art exhibitions. He died unexpectedly in his sleep.

SAM SCHOENBAUM

Sam Schoenbaum, Shakespearean scholar, died on March 27 aged 69. He was born on March 6, 1927.

SAM SCHOENBAUM had an unparalleled reputation in the field of Shakespeare studies in America. He insisted, however, that his first name appear on the title pages of his books simply as the initial "S". "Why," he argued, "should people I have never met, who read me in bed and in the bathtub, think of me as 'Sam'?" But although he wrote to the most rigorous standards of scholarship, his work was never remotely as forbidding as that initial "S" might suggest.

In the preface to his engaging history of Shakespeare biography, *Shakespeare's Lives* (1970), Schoenbaum described how he "quickly recognised the truth of the observation that biography tends towards oblique self-portraiture".

In his own biography of Shakespeare, *William Shakespeare: A Documentary Life* (1975), his readers found a Shakespeare who came to life from his appearances in deeds and wills, in print and manuscript, in the materials of archives and libraries. But, like his biographer, Schoenbaum's Shakespeare was never dry and dusty.

His scholarship was not put solely at the service of scholars. He recognised that his duty lay in affirming "our common humanity" and, in the increasingly specialised world of modern academic criticism, he stood out against its fashions and its exclusivity. He tried to demonstrate the continuity of an older kind of literary study.

Sam Schoenbaum was born in New York and studied as an undergraduate at Brooklyn College. He took his PhD at Columbia University with a dissertation on the plays of Thomas Middleton. Appointed to his first teaching post at Northwestern University, Illinois, in 1953, he stayed for more than twenty years, becoming Franklyn Bliss Snyder Professor of English Literature there in 1971. After a year at City University, New York, he moved in 1976 to the University of Maryland where he was Professor of Renaissance Literature and director of the Centre for Renaissance and Baroque Studies from 1981 until his retirement in 1993. The move to Maryland brought him closer to his favourite library, the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington of which he was a trustee.

All his publications on Shakespeare's life were intended only as preliminaries to a fullscale biography which, unfortunately, increasing ill-health prevented him from completing. *Shakespeare's Lives* surveyed the strange history of Shakespeare biography, the weighty work of some and the bizarre writings of many. Schoenbaum delighted in the obsessions of the anti-Stratfordians — writers like J. T. Looney who advanced the claims of the Earl of Oxford, or Delia Bacon who argued for those of her putative ancestor, Francis Bacon.

Although his book ran to well over 800 pages, Schoenbaum's ability to communicate his fascination never faltered and he found a warm response from his readers. *William Shakespeare: A Documentary Life* carefully reproduced all the documents in fine facsimile, setting out the facts and drawing cautious inferences. In its revised and abbreviated version, *William Shakespeare: A Compact Documentary Life* (1977), Schoenbaum's biography became the standard, authoritative and entertaining life.

When the Folger Shakespeare Library mounted a travelling exhibition, drawing on the unparalleled riches of its collection, Schoenbaum wrote the sumptuously-illustrated book to accompany it, *Shakespeare: The Globe and the World* (1979). It described the gardens and hunting, needlework and sermons, printshops and theatres of Shakespeare's world.

But the onset of multiple sclerosis in the 1980s and, later, cancer delayed what was to have been the crowning work. A sociable man, who enjoyed good food and fine wines, Schoenbaum bore his long illness patiently, nursed by his wife Marilyn whom he had married in 1946. Their first date had been to see Paul Robeson as Othello and they spent their whole lives together, travelling to lectures and conferences and enjoying the company of friends.

In the current climate of academic life, Sam Schoenbaum may appear to have outlived his time. But his work exemplified all those humane values of scholarship in which he believed so passionately.

He is survived by his wife. There were no children.

JO PARFITT

Jo Parfitt, journalist, died from heart disease on April 11 aged 68. She was born on July 16, 1927.

JO PARFITT was the only woman staff member in the home news room of *The Times* from 1954 to 1959. She was also involved in the relaunching of the Woman's Page when it was revived in 1955, the page having been discontinued during the Second World War when paper rationing was introduced. Acutely conscious of the fact that she had not gone to university, she was a perfectionist. Intelligent and conscientious, she set herself the highest standards.

Her career illustrates many of the difficulties for women in an age when they were not expected to have a career. Greatly admired by her colleagues and editors, she left *The Times* at the age of 33 in 1960 in order to start a family. When she did go back to working from home, her meticulousness made the freelance life hard for her, and she achieved less in this second stage of her career than might have been expected.

Josephine Parfitt — always called Jo — was educated at Guildford County School for Girls, where at the time girls were expected to become either nurses or secretaries. Her father had run a fairly successful business but lost his money as a result of the dishonesty of an associate, so there was no money for her to go to university. Many years later Lord Robbins, director of the London School of Economics, who was a friend, said he wished he could have taught her as she was "a certain first".

At 16 she was taken on at *The Times* as a junior shorthand typist. Within six months she was appointed secretary to Donald Tyerman, later assistant editor of the paper. Just after her 18th birthday, Parfitt resigned because she wanted to become a journalist. She got a job on Lady Rhondda's weekly *Time and Tide*, where she stayed for five years.

In 1950 she moved to the *News Chronicle*, a mid-market Liberal broadsheet with a talented staff including James Cameron and the cartoonist Vicky. She was soon teased for her zeal. Once, when the news editor's wife complained about the declining standards of laundries, she was assigned to write a light-hearted piece. She came back with a carefully researched article several times longer than the news editor wanted. After that, when she showed signs of over-egging the pudding, colleagues would say: "Jo is doing her laundry."

But her work was too good not to be appreciated. She wrote one particularly interesting series comparing unemployment in the 1950s, which she saw as relative deprivation, to the absolute poverty implied by unemployment in the 1930s. She was given increasingly important assignments, some abroad.

In 1954 she was head-hunted by the news editor of *The Times*, R. M. Dobson, who became her strong supporter. It was understood that she would run the Woman's Page, but first she was to work in the home news room at Printing House Square, a dingy hole with far fewer telephones and typewriters than reporters.

First she had to pass through that intimidating experience, an interview with Sir William Haley, the Editor. She was bold enough to ask whether he planned to put news on the front page. He replied only that he was always interested to hear the opinion of the younger generation.

A tall, handsome woman with dark hair, at once friendly and diffident, she was an instant success in the newsroom. She was given important hard news assignments at which she excelled, as well as features to write.

Whimsy reigned at the paper then. Parfitt once laboured mightily over a brief feature about how guardsmen from Wellington Barracks were used to test the strength of the new bridge in St James's Park. One of her "turnover" features, on fish and chips, drew the magisterial compliment from Haley: "Your turnover was excellent. I did not know there was so much to be said upon the subject."

The Woman's Page duly reappeared in September 1955, and Parfitt was much involved in its reintroduction. But she did not enjoy working in what would now be called a "ghetto" for women readers, and returned to the newsroom.

In 1957 Jo Parfitt married Rudolf Klein, then a leader writer on the *Evening Standard*. Later, after a stint on *The Observer*, he became a distinguished social scientist at the University of Bath, where he and she lived in a beautiful house crammed with opera recordings until shortly before her death. Although in the late 1970s she returned to work as a freelance editor on the *British Medical Journal*, her main focus was on her husband and her daughter, Leonora, now a barrister. In her middle fifties she was afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis and spent the last years of her life in a wheelchair.

She is survived by her husband and daughter.

ON THIS DAY

April 25, 1983

Unlike the Parnell forgeries of 1889 which nearly bankrupted The Times *and seriously damaged its reputation, the paper's belief in the Hitler diaries did little harm; indeed the subsequent revelations of forgery made first-class copy in the paper.*

HITLER'S SECRET DIARIES

GERMANS GREET FIND WITH GREAT SCEPTICISM

From Michael Binyon
Bonn

German historians and newspapers have greeted with considerable scepticism the announcement that Hitler's diaries have been discovered, echoing the view in Britain that this is either the forgery of the century or necessitates the rewriting of the history of the Nazi period.

Professor Karl-Dieter Bracher of Bonn University, one of the most respected historians of the period, expressed "great scepticism" and said a proper evaluation of the find and its contents was only possible after a careful scientific examination.

Professor Martin Broszat, director of the Munich Institute for Contemporary History, also cast doubt on the documents' authenticity, declaring, however, that Lord Dacre, who expressed conviction in *The Times* on Saturday that the diaries were genuine, was a "very careful man who took great care with his sources"...

Stern's announcement on Friday has provoked astonishment and enormous interest here. The magazine has brought forward the publication of the issue revealing the diaries, and printed a record edition over the weekend of more than two million copies.

German papers and reports have had to rely so far for details on the extracts already published in *The Sunday Times*, retranslating quotations from the diaries back into German. Newspapers, publishing pictures of the Nazi leaders mentioned in *The Sunday Times* extracts, have also gone into detail about the way the documents were discovered and acquired by *Stern*.

Herr Nicolaus von Below, Hitler's former air force adjutant, told the mass circulation *Bild am Sonntag* that the diaries were just another of the many untrue "fairy stories" circulating since the end of the war. "We often used to eat at about three or four o'clock in the night, and only after that did Hitler go to bed". Herr von Below, who was constantly in Hitler's entourage from 1937 until the end of the war, told the paper. "So he had no time to write anything. It's all a complete lie."

The paper also quoted Professor Werner Maser, who has written books on Hitler, saying that a forgery factory existed in Potsdam, East Germany, to turn out Hitler documents, letters and pictures which were then sold to the West for valuable Western currency.

Stern has rejected his statements, saying he had disqualified himself as a scientific historian. He had already offered his story of the East German forgery factory to the magazine; but had been unable to back up his claims with any proof or real indication of its existence.

Former General Hans Baur, now aged 86, who was Hitler's chief pilot and recalled Hitler's distress at hearing of the loss of his diaries, stood by his conviction that they are genuine...

The extracts in *The Sunday Times* yesterday show that ... in 1943 Hitler is complaining about the level of guerrilla activity in occupied territory which he says was Himmler's job to stamp out. "But he lives in another world, and it seems to me that he exists in an ancient Germanic world in the heavens."

Hitler complains also of Goebbels's notorious affair with the Czech actress Lida Barrova: "The little Dr Goebbels is up to his old tricks again with women." He asks at one point: "Where are Goering's miraculous aircraft?" And in 1934, at the time of the purge of the brownshirts, he accused Ernst Roehm, the brownshirt leader, of lying to him. "I gave him the opportunity to take the noble way out but he was too cowardly to do even that." He was shot on Hitler's orders.

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THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Poll gives Tories glimmer of hope

■ People have at last started to feel more optimistic about the economic outlook and are more positive about John Major than at any time for three years, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

■ However, the shift in attitude has not yet changed voting intentions or the expectation that the Conservatives will suffer big losses in next week's council elections. *Support for the* Tories has remained at 28 per cent over the past month**Page 1**

Major catches tide of EU protest

■ John Major *told* politicians pressing for withdrawal from the European Union that they were living in Cloud-cuckoo-land. *But he responded to the rising tide of public and media* disaffection with Brussels by signalling a hardening of British *attitudes within the EU*........................**Pages 1, 11, 21, 25, 26, 29**

Threat to Adams

President Clinton is expected to sever relations with Gerry Adams if the IRA refuses to resume its ceasefire and disqualifies Sinn Fein from *all-party talks on Ulster's future* ....**Page 2**

What the MP saw

A backbench Labour MP told the High Court that he spotted a journalist who is now one of Tony Blair's closest aides soliciting signatures on a hand-drafted parliamentary motion ....**Page 3**

Nursery project

America's largest child care company *is targeting 20 British towns* to open dawn-to-dusk nurseries for children from six weeks old following heavy demand at a pilot centre in Cheshire.............**Page 5**

Back on screen

The earliest surviving film made by Oliver Hardy is to have its first public screening for almost 80 *years, after being rescued from a* bonfire ....**Page 6**

War hero honoured

The bravery of a wartime railman who prevented a trainload of bombs exploding has been recognised with the naming of a new garden in Ipswich.....**Page 7**

Divorce warning

Tory backbenchers led the attack on the Government's divorce re*forms, warning that they would* cause a big increase in marital breakdowns .... **Page 9**

Otter returns

An otter has been exploring the Thames near Reading, 40 miles upstream from London, for the first time in thirty years, confirm*ing a dramatic improvement in* water quality .... **Pages 10, 21**

Currency slippage

European Union countries last year slipped further away from the Maastricht single-currency targets, according to the German Bundesbank president in his annual report .... **Page 11**

Chechen power gap

A power struggle is expected among Chechen *guerrilla chiefs* as the rebel movement tries to fill the power vaccuum left by the death of its leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev.................... **Page 14, 23**

Kennedy fever

Sotheby's was amazed by the bidding at the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis sale in New York. President Kennedy's rocking chair made $400,000......... **Pages 15, 19**

Dole on the attack

The Dole campaign is to intensify its attacks on President Clinton in an urgent effort to stem a rising Republican panic and erode the *President's poll lead* .... ***Page 16***

Sect leader on trial

The leader of the Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult refused to plead to charges about a nerve gas attack on the Tokyo underground when his trial opened .... **Pages 17, 21**

The menace from outer space

■ Eros, an asteroid 15 miles long and twice the size of the one *that killed the dinosaurs, may hit the Earth. The asteroid that* landed 65 million years ago threw so much debris into the *atmosphere that the climate was changed and vegetation died.* A team of Italian-French scientists says a disaster is quite likely — but not for at least 100,000 years ....**Page 1**

TIM OCKENDEN/PA

The Queen with the President of Mongolia, Punsalmaa Ochirbat, and his wife after his audience at Windsor Castle yesterday

Electric shock: The row over restructuring the industry looks set to continue despite the blocking of the generators' bids.................**Page 25**

Telecoms threat: *The proposed £35* billion merger between Cable and Wireless and BT hit a new obstacle after a warning from C&W's powerful German partner ....**Page 25**

Telegraph move: Conrad Black has moved to assume full control of *Telegraph newspapers with a £763* million offer for the 36 per cent of the company which is publicly owned ....**Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 15.4 to 3,817.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index was unchanged at 84.0 after a dip from $1.5146 to $1.5128 and a rise from DM2.2990 to DM2.3022.......................**Page 28**

Football: The Republic of Ireland lost 2-0 to the Czech Republic in Prague. *The goals came in the sec*ond half from Martin Frydek and Pavel Kuka........................ **Page 48**

Snooker: Terry Griffiths, a veteran of 18 world championships, has never been involved in a more dramatic finish than his 10-9 victory *over Jamie Burnett in this year's* first round .... **Page 46**

Athletics: Colin Jackson withdrew his threat to boycott some of Britain's top meetings this summer .... **Page 43**

Rugby league: Shaun McRae, the St Helens coach, accused *his* Bradford counterpart of "living in Disneyland" over Bradford's starting line-up for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final .... **Page 43**

Rip-roaring Richard: New films include a rip-roaring screen adapta*tion of Richard III, set* in the Thirties with Ian McKellen playing the title-role; and *The Birdcage*, a remake of *La Cage aux folles* with Robin Williams.................**Page 33**

Prince on the run: Peter Whelan's fine new play at the Birmingham Rep, *Divine Right*, portrays an heir to the throne wandering incognito round middle England......**Page 35**

Tosca refreshed: A dull Covent Garden production of *Tosca* has been freshened up by a fine new cast, including the fast-rising British baritone Anthony Michaels-Moore singing Scarpia......**Page 35**

New on video: The space thriller *Apollo 13* is among the new videos..................................**Page 34**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ POP
David Sinclair on a new album from the Cranberries; Caitlin Moran on the Bluetones

■ INTERVIEW
Valerje Grove meets Martin Mears, the Law Society's maverick president

Going, gone: *New York's sale of* the century — the auction of Jackie Kennedy Onassis's jewellery and objets d'art......................... **Page 19**

Daycare: A mother explains why her *child* goes *to nursery school* and a teacher looks at what's best for children......................... **Page 18**

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the real results of X-rays .... **Page 18**

French leave: Tour operators to France are continuing to cut prices *in the hope of luring* British holidaymakers .... **Pages 38, 39**

Coming down: Frequent-flyer bonus schemes might be phased out .... **Pages 38, 39**

Writers behind the writing: Peter Ackroyd on Bernard Shaw; Valerie Grove on Djuna Barnes; Derwent May on the diaries of Anthony Powell .... **Pages 36, 37**

The Olive Tree of Romano Prodi and the financial markets are in *honeymoon phase. If this opportu*nity is not to be wasted, Italy needs a clear sign that it is on course *for* monetary union and participation in the euro by 2002. The new coalition must show firm determination to bind us closer to our European allies —*La Stampa*

Preview: Why would anybody want to be a police officer for nothing? *Cutting Edge: Special Force* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Peter Barnard is captivated by Margarita Pracatan .... **Page 47**

Book of chances

John Major's policy towards Europe remains a precarious straddle between opposing positions. It is not only the Euro-sceptics who think this policy cannot hold ....**Page 21**

Stranger than Aum

Japan is the most law-abiding of countries: the trauma of the Aum Shinrikyo sect will linger long after this bizarre trial has become history...............................**Page 21**

Ring of brown water

The Reading otters would be wise to colonise upstream rather than down to London, *at any rate until* the millennium party is over. Being such slippery survivors, they will ....**Page 21**

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Sunday has become a highly productive day for politicians and news managers, a seedbed for the day's headlines. For those who relish the swordplay of party politics it is all good fun — not much blood *shed*, but a very satisfying clang of steel on steel .... **Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

Many Labour supporters regard the next election as primarily an opportunity to end the long Tory era rather than as the start of the New Jerusalem. Expectations are low, and have been deliberately lowered by Tony Blair to avoid later disappointment .... **Page 9**

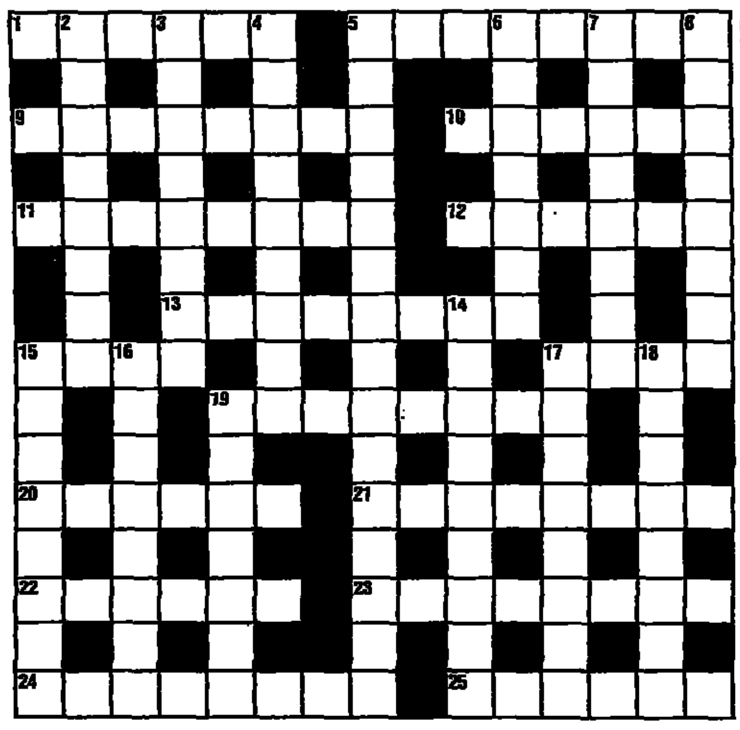
JOHN BRYANT

A touch of flamboyant mockery of an opponent who has mucked things up is nothing new in sport. Some games even have it deep in their make-up .... **Page 46**

Sir Michael Joughin, electricity chairman; **David Shipman**, film historian; **Sam Schoenbaum**, *Shakespearean scholar*; ***Jo Parfitt***, journalist ....**Page 23**

Labour policies; friends of Kenwood; Thought for the Day; human rights ....**Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,151



ACROSS

1 This stops drunkard eating pork (6).
5 Soft food and hard available for dog (8).
9 Stop being full of vice (3-5).
10 *Beetle can be irritating (3,3).*
11 Report of a shot at the wicket (8).
12 One's retreating, having advanced without a sound (6).
13 Suitable postulate held by primate (8).
15 Head started losing heart (4).
17 Play from Pinero – taking part (4).
19 A pointer to abuse of deadly drug (8)..
20 The cloth originally called loden *employed rather greenish yarn* (6).
21 William Tell had to acknowledge applause (4,1,3).
22 It flies round one, in part (6).
23 Have lines inside, with edges joined together (8).
24 *Charm – it briefly attracts* wild animals (8).
25 He got fatally nailed with girl in family demanding date (6).

DOWN

2 Condemn unheard small book *held up by fatso* (8).
3 Christian girl I spare (8).
4 *Fix hose to bag (5,4).*
5 Make a firm decision to go faster (3,4,4,4).
6 I do not approve of Egyptian picture (7).
7 Book from Liberal upset relatively passionate Cockney (8).
8 Patching damaged headgear (8).
14 Fathead's stupidity (9).
15 Withdraw cash invested, resulting in power cut (8).
16 Main antenna receiving radio telegraphy (8).
17 Poor sales rep gets worse (8).
18 RAF woman trained in martial craft (3-2-3).
19 Messenger states devotion (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,150

P	A	P	Y	R	U	S	■	V	E	S	P	E	R	S
E	■	L	■	U	■	H	■	A	■	I	■	R	■	U
S	W	A	N	S	D	O	W	N	■	G	O	U	R	D
E	■	T	■	T	■	R	■	■	■	M	■	O	■	A
T	U	T	T	I	■	T	A	S	M	A	N	I	A	N
A	■	E	■	C	■	C	■	T	■	■	■	T	■	E
■	B	R	E	A	T	H	L	E	S	S	N	E	S	S
P	■	■	■	T	■	A	■	T	■	E	■	■	■	E
S	K	A	T	E	O	N	T	H	I	N	I	C	E	■
A	■	L	■	■	■	G	■	O	■	T	■	O	■	A
L	I	M	I	T	L	E	S	S	■	I	D	L	E	R
T	■	O	■	H	■	■	■	C	■	M	■	L	■	O
E	R	N	I	E	■	C	O	O	P	E	R	A	T	E
R	■	E	■	T	■	A	■	P	■	N	■	G	■	N
Y	A	R	D	A	R	M	■	E	N	T	R	E	A	T

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For regional forecast, dial 0891 500 followed by code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is 39p per min (cheap rate), 49p other times

AA ROADWATCH

For AA traffic/roadworks, dial 0336 401 followed by code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is 39p per min (cheap rate), 49p other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.44 am
Sun sets: 8.14 pm

Moon sets 1.59 am
Moon rises 11.36 am

First quarter today

London 8.14 pm to 5.42 am
Bristol 8.24 pm to 5.55 am
Edinburgh 8.40 pm to 5.40 am
Manchester 8.29 pm to 5.44 am
Penzance 8.32 pm to 6.07 am

HAVE YOU PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS?

Spent serious money on your teeth for crowns or bridgework? Then shouldn't you insure that like any other investment? ACCIdental Dental Injuries Plan gives you affordable cover.

WPA

Western Provident Association

FREECALL 0500 41 42 43

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will start mostly fine and dry. Southern areas should remain fine and warm, if increasingly cloudy. The northwest will become increasingly cloudy with patchy rain. Scotland and Northern *Ireland will start mostly fine and dry;* some rain is likely in the far northeast. Thickening cloud will bring outbreaks *of rain from the west. Remaining mild.*

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Channel Isles:** mostly fine and dry, sunniest in the morning. Winds light, west then southwest. Quite warm, max 16C (61F).

☐ **W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, Central N, NE England:** mostly dry with early sunshine, cloudy later with perhaps drizzle. Winds light or moderate, mainly west or southwest. Max 14C (57F).

☐ ***N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:*** dry start, thickening cloud spreading rain east. Winds moderate, locally fresh, southwest. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** dry for much of the morning but increasingly cloudy, patchy rain likely later. Winds mainly moderate, southwest. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy with rain at times, becoming drier and brighter before clouding over again. Winds fresh northwest, locally strong, becoming moderate southwest. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain in the north spreading slowly south, brighter weather following into the north.

AROUND BRITAIN

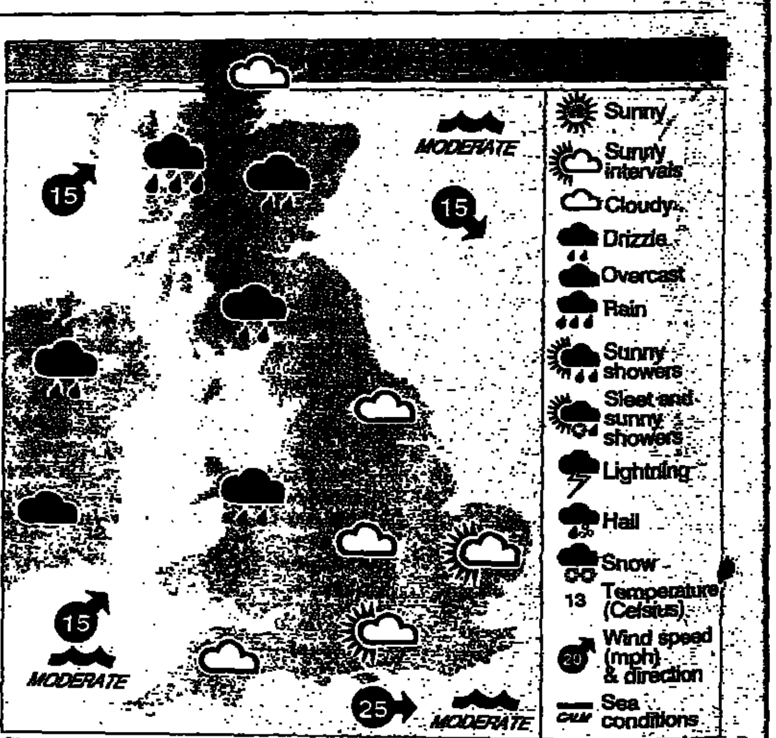
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.1	0.40	7	45	r	Leeds	0.8	0.45	12	54	sh
Anglesey	2.2	0.01	12	54	du	Lerwick	-	0.08	8	46	r
Aspatria	4.2	0.48	11	52	r	Leuchars	2.5	0.65	9	48	r
Aviemore	2.5	0.33	6	43	r	Littlehmptn	2.3	0.29	13	55	s
Belfast	4.6	0.03	15	59	sh	London	0.1	0.13	13	55	r
Birmingham	0.9	0.51	13	55	sh	Lowestoft	3.1	0.01	13	55	sh
Bognor R	2.8	0.29	13	55	b	Manchester	1.6	0.74	13	55	b
Bournem'th	1.6	0.41	12	54	b	Margate	5.8	-	15	59	b
Bristol	0.3	0.65	12	54	sh	Minehead	3.3	0.72	15	59	b
Buxton	1.1	0.59	11	52	s	Morecambe	3.5	0.56	12	54	r
Cardiff	3.8	0.56	13	55	s	Newcastle	0.2	0.52	11	52	r
Clacton	4.0	-	12	54	s	Norwich	-	0.01	13	55	d
Colwyn Bay	3.8	0.52	13	55	b	Oxford	0.5	0.41	13	55	sh
Cromer	*0.2*	*0.01*	*13*	*55*	*c*	*Penzance*	X	*0.06*	*13*	*55*	sh
Edinburgh	2.6	0.41	11	52	r	Prestatyn	X	0.57	13	55	b
Eskdalemuir	2.0	0.43	9	48	r	Ross-o-wye	2.0	0.65	14	57	s
Exmouth	0.8	0.53	12	54	c	Ryde	2.0	0.31	12	54	b
Fishguard	2.9	0.09	13	55	b	*Salcombe*	0.5	*0.37*	*13*	*55*	*c*
Glasgow	2.7	0.09	14	57	r	Sandown	1.9	0.32	13	55	b
Guernsey	5.0	0.59	15	59	sh	Saunton Snd	6.0	0.39	13	55	s
Hayling I.	2.4	0.33	12	54	c	Shrewsbury	1.8	0.67	13	55	sh
Herne Bay	4.8	-	15	59	b	Skegness	-	0.07	12	54	c
Hunstanton	-	0.04	12	54	c	Teignmouth	0.3	0.60	12	54	sh
Isle of Man	2.8	0.01	11	52	c	Torquay	1.4	0.50	13	55	c
Jersey	3.4	0.41	13	55	r	Ventnor	3.6	0.26	11	52	b
Kinloss	*1.7*	*0.59*	*10*	*50*	*r*	*Weymouth*	*1.3*	*0.78*	*11*	*52*	*b*

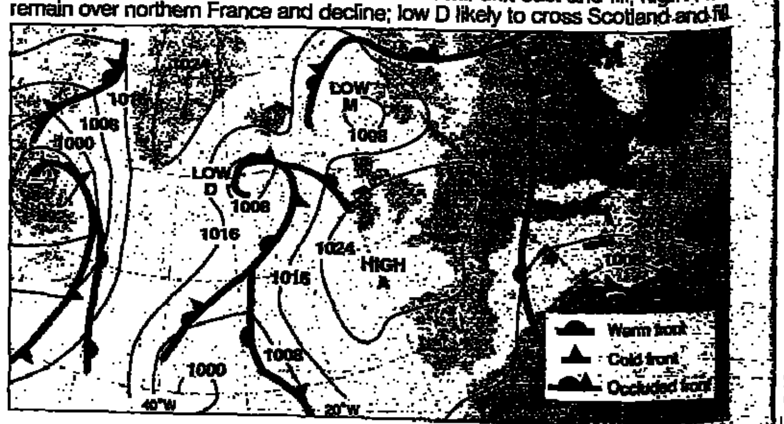
ABROAD

Ajaccio	19	66	f	Corfu	19	66	s	Luxor	27	81	s	Riyadh	34	93	f
Akrotiri	15	59	t	C'phagn	23	73	s	Madrid	15	59	f	Rome	20	68	f
Alex'dria	19	66	c	Dublin	11	52	c	Majorca	22	72	f	S Fr'isco	18	64	s
Algiers	21	70	f	Dubrovnik	18	64	s	Malaga	20	68	f	S Paulo	27	81	s
Amst'dm	18	64	f	Faro	17	63	s	Malta	18	64	f	Salzburg	26	79	s
Athens	22	72	s	Florence	23	73	f	Melb'rne	19	66	s	Santiago	19	66	s
B Aires	21	70	f	Frankfurt	21	70	s	Mexico C	20	68	f	Seoul	19	66	s
Bahrain	31	88	s	Funchal	17	63	c	Miami	29	84	s	Sing'por	29	84	t
Bangkok	34	93	f	Geneva	14	57	r	Milan	17	63	r	St'kholm	13	55	f
Barbados	30	86	f	Gibraltar	19	66	s	Montreal	12	54		Strasb'rg	18	64	c
Barcelona	*19*	*66*	*s*	*Guernsey*	*9*	*48*	*f*	*Moscow*	*22*	*72*	*s*	*Sydney*	*22*	*72*	*f*
Beirut	16	61	f	Helsinki	13	55	s	Munich	27	81	s	Tangier	18	64	s
Belfast	11	52	c	Hong K	22	72	s	N Delhi	31	88	s	Tel Aviv	16	61	r
Belgrade	26	79	s	Innsbrck	22	72	s	N York	22	72	s	Tenerife	19	66	c
Berlin	26	79	s	Inverness	8	46	r	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tokyo	17	63	s
Bermuda	20	68	c	Istanbul	13	55	f	Naples	21	70	f	Toronto	4	39	r
Biarritz	15	59	f	Jeddah	29	84	f	Nice	14	57	f	Tunis	20	68	f
Borde'x	15	59	c	Jersey	10	50	d	Oslo	14	57	f	Valencia	21	70	s
Brussels	17	63	s	Jo'burg	21	70	s	Paris	16	61	f	Vanc'ver	10	50	r
Budapst	23	73	s	L Angels	24	75	s	Peking	23	73	s	Venice	19	66	s
Cairo	20	68	f	L Palmas	19	66	c	Perth	20	68	f	Vienna	23	73	s
Cape Tn	20	68	s	Le Touqt	10	50	f	Prague	24	75	s	Warsaw	25	77	s
Ch'church	27	81	s	Lisbon	15	59	f	Reykjavik	7	45	f	Wash'ton	27	81	f
Chicago	7	45	s	London	11	52	c	Rhodes	17	63	s	Wel'ngton	20	68	s
Cologne	20	68	f	Luxembg	14	57	c	Rio de J	27	81	s	Zurich	22	72	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low M will drift east and fill; high A will remain over northern France and decline; low D likely to cross Scotland and fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6:10	6.1	6:23	6.0	Leith	7:11	4.5	[illegible]	4.3
Aberdeen	5:59	3.4	6:44	3.2	Liverpool	3:30	7.7	[illegible]	7.3
Avonmouth	11:18	10.1	11:33	10.0	Lowestoft	2:31	2.0	[illegible]	2.1
Belfast	3:53	3.2	4:30	2.9	Margate	4:37	4.0	[illegible]	3.9
Cardiff	11:08	9.6	11:24	9.6	Milford Haven	10:48	5.2	[illegible]	5.3
Devonport	9:57	4.3	10:16	4.4	Newquay	9:57	4.9	10:32	5.8
Dover	3:38	5.5	4:09	5.5	Oban	*10:16*	2.8	*10:26*	3.0
Dublin (N Wall)	4:20	3.4	5:09	3.2	Penzance	9:22	4.3	[illegible]	4.4
Falmouth	10:00	3.8	10:37	4.1	Portland	10:43	1.3	10:41	1.4
Greenock	4:49	3.1	5:38	2.8	Portsmouth	3:32	3.9	4:15	3.9
Harwich	4:12	3.4	4:31	3.3	*Shoreham*	3:16	4.9	[illegible]	[illegible]
Holyhead	2:42	4.6	3:25	4.3	Southampton	3:05	3.8	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hull (Albert D)	10:27	6.0	11:11	5.5	Swansea	10:48	7.4	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ilfracombe	10:32	7.1	10:57	7.1	Tees	8:26	4.4	[illegible]	[illegible]
King's Lynn	10:51	5.0	11:40	*4.6*	Walton-on-Naze	4:01	3.8	[illegible]	[illegible]

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Margate, Kent, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland, [illegible]; highest rainfall: Weymouth, Dorset, 0.78in; highest sunshine: Ilfracombe, Devon, 7.5hr.

The outlook in Bermuda is heavenly.

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هكذا من الاصل

ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

The single currency is starting to look inevitable

BOOKS 36, 37

Peter Ackroyd on the ascent of Bernard Shaw

SPORT 43-48

John Bryant on the rebel who sought applause

PRICE CUTS TO FRANCE
Travel 38, 39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY APRIL 25 1996

Further industry moves expected despite blocking of bids

Lang decision fails to end power turmoil

By Christine Buckley

THE dispute over the restructuring of the electricity industry looks set to continue in spite of the decision by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to block the bids for regional electricity companies by National Power and PowerGen, the UK power generators.

His ruling that the two proposals to combine generation and distribution in electricity should not proceed, was swiftly followed by indications from Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator, that he could look favourably on plans by the Hanson conglomerate to buy power stations from National Power and PowerGen.

Those deals, worth more than £2 billion for six megawatts of plant, would create a big, vertically integrated company because Eastern, the division of Hanson, is already the country's largest supplier of electricity with more than three million customers. But Professor Littlechild, who had vehemently opposed the mergers of National Power with Southern Electric and PowerGen with Midlands Electricity, said that Eastern was a different matter. "This would not be on the same scale as National Power or PowerGen, which have a large share of the market," he said. "Another medium-sized player would contribute to competition."

Both the large generators were forced to sell plant by Professor Littlechild to encourage new generators into the market, where currently National Power and PowerGen command huge sway over the wholesale price of electricity.

The principle of vertical integration was not rejected by Mr Lang, in what has been widely interpreted as a political decision to fend off criticism of the Government's handling of electricity privatisation. That, along with Professor Littlechild's keenness to see plant disposed of quickly, could herald more cross-generation/distribution moves. British Energy, the nuclear power group being floated in the summer, is known to be keen to expand into distribution and would probably want to move ahead of a possible change in Government.

Lang blocks bid 1
Pennington 27

Mr Lang's rejection of the bids adds further uncertainty to the next moves of Southern Company of the US, which made an approach on National Power last week. The prospect of an overseas owner for Britain's largest generator brought a flurry of concern from consumer groups and raised the political temperature when John Redwood and Norman Lamont weighed into the debate.

Southern (US), whose overseas chief executive, Tom Boren, has been in London for the past few weeks, has yet to make a fresh statement after National Power rebuffed a request for talks about talks. But industry watchers do not believe the company, which is a key player in the US, was naive enough to approach the UK generator without being aware of regulatory hurdles and the prospect of a hostile reaction.

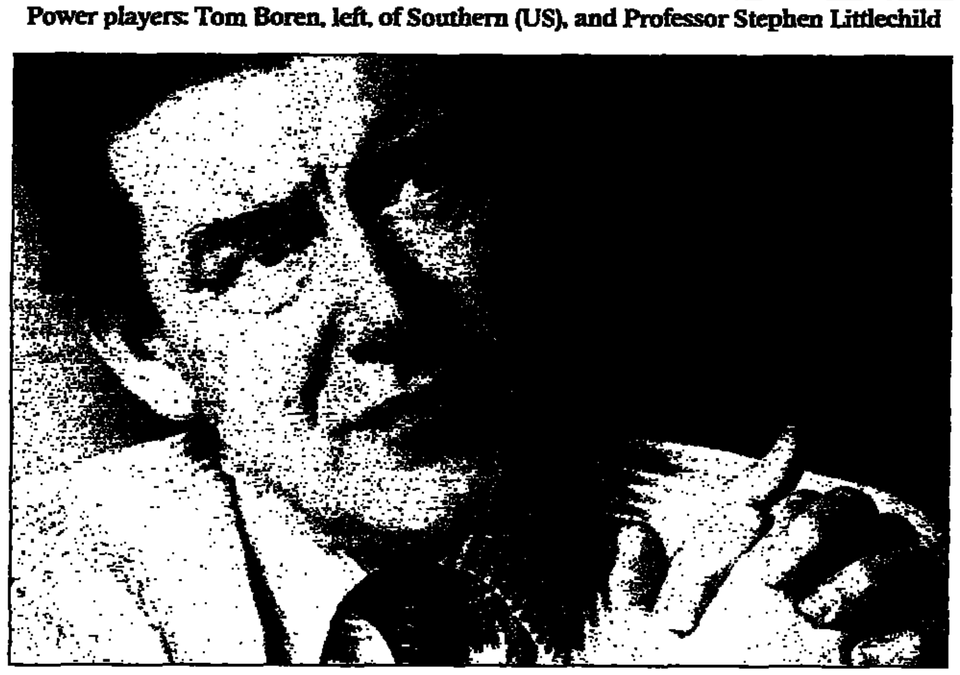
The company was the first US utility to move on the UK market when it bought Sweb, the south-western regional company, in a hostile bid. Ownership of Sweb could be seen to harm its regulatory chances in bidding for a generator, but Southern has indicated it wants to sell up to half its interest in Sweb.

Investors in privatised power stocks saw around £1 billion wiped off the value of their companies as the Government blocked the bid plans. The share price of National Power dropped 32p to 564p and that of PowerGen 36p to 570p. The biggest victims of the fallout, however, were shares in Southern Electric and Midlands Electricity, with Southern tumbling 79p to 824p and Midlands 40p to 371p.

Special dividends worth more than £1 billion could be on the cards for investors in the generators, as the electricity companies come under pressure to return some value to shareholders, who saw their holdings crumble on Mr Lang's decision.

Nigel Hawkins, utilities analyst at Yamaichi, said: "Both generators are now faced with a pressing need to restructure their balance sheets and deliver some value."

Power players: Tom Boren, left, of Southern (US), and Professor Stephen Littlechild



Ian Lang, whose ruling was seen as a political decision to fend off privatisation criticism

Barings boss faces SFA ban

By Robert Miller

THE disciplinary case bought by a senior City watchdog against Peter Norris, the chief executive officer of Barings at the time of the £860 million crash, is expected to be concluded next week.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the regulator for brokers and futures dealers, will announce that Mr Norris has accepted a three-year ban from certain senior SFA registers and agreed to pay costs of about £10,000.

Mr Norris, who declined to comment yesterday, is now a non-executive director of John Brown, the publishing house that produces *Viz* and *Gardens Illustrated*.

Mr Norris, who is due to give evidence on the Barings crash to the Commons Treasury Select Committee next month, is the first of the nine remaining disciplinary cases brought by the SFA to be completed.

All have been charged with failing to act with due skill, care and diligence in monitoring the bogus trading activities of Nick Leeson on the Far East money markets. Peter Baring, the former chairman of the 233-year old merchant bank,, and his deputy, Andrew Tuckey, have also been summoned to give evidence at the Commons.

Five others are understood to be in discussions with the SFA over penalties ranging from a three-year ban from senior SFA registers to a severe limitation on the work they may undertake in the securities industry.

The remaining three former Barings executives, Mary Wolz, global head of equity products, Ron Baker, who set up the Debt Financial Products Group, and Ian Hopkins, who was in charge of group treasury and risk, are understood to have refused to accept the SFA verdicts on their professional conduct and are making appeals.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3817.8	(-15.4)
Yield	3.89%	
FT-SE A All share	1912.25	(-4.64)
Nikkei	22282.05	(+162.17)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5553.54	(-35.05)*
S&P Composite	650.02	(-1.56)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	90¼*	(90½)
Yield	6.77%*	(6.78%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	5⁷⁄₃₂%	(5⁷⁄₃₂%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	106¼	(106⁹⁄₃₂)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.5140*	(1.5165)
London:		
$	1.5128	(1.5141)
DM	2.3024	(2.2987)
FFr	7.7754	(7.7765)
SFr	1.8656	(1.8592)
Yen	161.54	(161.21)
£ Index	84.0	(84.0)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.5214*	(1.5220)
FFr	5.1390*	(5.1405)
SFr	1.2323*	(1.2338)
Yen	106.80*	(106.71)
$ Index	96.6	(96.4)
Tokyo close Yen 106.70		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jul)	$19.05	($19.25)
GOLD		
London close	$390.90	($392.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Australian boost

Bank of Scotland proved that its decision to build up an Australian business instead of following the recent trend of banks to buy building societies had paid off after it unveiled a 21 per cent advance in full year profits.

Page 27, Tempus 28

EU block

The European Commission has blocked Lonrho and Gencor from creating a new platinum giant because of fears that the company and its only rival, Anglo American, would use their stranglehold to fix prices.

Page 30, Tempus 28

Veba threat to BT and C&W merger

By Eric Reguly

THE proposed £35 billion merger between Cable and Wireless and BT hit a new obstacle yesterday when it emerged that Veba, C&W's powerful German partner, has given warning that it will not support the merger if its interests are sacrificed.

Veba, one of Germany's largest industrial groups, owns 10.5 per cent of C&W and has formed two telecoms joint ventures with C&W in Europe. Vebacom, the larger of the two, plans to become the main competitor to Deutsche Telekom after the market is deregulated in 1998.

Veba fears that BT will insist that its own joint venture in Germany, known as Viag Interkom, will emerge as the preferred German partner of a merged C&W-BT group. Vebacom and Viag Interkom, whose half owner is Viag, the German utility, are competitors and realise that only one of them would have a role in the enlarged group.

BT and C&W admit privately that finding a solution to the German question is one of the key issues to be resolved before their merger can proceed. A formal merger agreement is expected within weeks.

Neither Veba nor Viag appear willing to bow out gracefully. Hannelore Gantzer, a Viag spokeswoman, said: "We are confident that we will be the ones that survive."

Viag noted that it and BT continued to work on expanding their German partnership even after BT and C&W began talks last year. In February, BT and Viag announced their intention to bring RWE, another German utility, into the Viag Interkom joint venture.

People close to the merger talks said that Viag might might take legal action for breach of its partnership contract, or try to extract a large payment from BT, if Viag Interkom is squeezed out.

Veba appears to have the upper hand because it owns a significant stake of C&W and has a seat on the C&W board.

Hitch at the altar, page 29

IoD rejects a single currency

BRITAIN'S company directors yesterday gave strong support to Eurosceptics by voting heavily to reject the UK joining a European single currency. The annual conference of the Institute of Directors (IoD) also overwhelmingly backed the UK's opt-out from the European social chapter on employment standards.

Both moves, but especially the single currency vote, back what even pro-European business leaders now acknowledge is a growing Euroscepticism in British business. UK business bodies have been divided over Europe, with organisations such as the Confederation of British Industry more overtly pro-European, while bodies such as the IoD have been more sceptical.

A vote at the end of the IoD debate showed 69 per cent against a single currency, and 28 per cent in favour.

Major speaks out, page 1
What kind of EU? page 11
Conference, page 26
City Diary, page 29

Telegraph agrees £763m takeover

By Alasdair Murray

CONRAD BLACK, chairman of Hollinger, the Canadian publishing group, yesterday moved to assume full control of Telegraph newspapers with a £763 million offer for the 36 per cent of the company which is publicly owned.

Hollinger also hinted at a further easing in the newspaper price war by stating that it intended to lift the cover price of *The Daily Telegraph* when conditions are "appropriate". The paper now costs 40p as opposed to 48p before the price war began in 1993.

In a deal agreed with the Telegraph board, Hollinger is offering 560p a share and a special dividend of 10p a share to Telegraph shareholders. Hollinger added that Telegraph shareholders could be in line for a further payout if the company disposes of its 25 per cent stake in Fairfax, the Australian newspaper group, within the next two years.

Hollinger has approached the new Australian Government, before a review of newspaper ownership laws, giving warning that it will sell its stake in Fairfax if Mr Black is unable to increase his holding in the company.

Kerry Packer, who already owns a 17 per cent stake in Fairfax, and Tony O'Reilly's APN newspaper group are understood to be interested in buying the stake if Hollinger decides to sell. But industry experts believe Hollinger's threat is largely bluff as the Fairfax group includes some of the most profitable titles in the world. Shares in the Telegraph rose 96p to 569p, just below the offer price.

Hollinger upset the City two years ago after the group sold 12.5 million shares in the Telegraph just one month before the share price plummeted 35 per cent after the decision to cut cover prices.

Although Hollinger bought back millions of shares after the fall, an earlier attempt to take the company private floundered because the company was unable to agree a price with the Telegraph board.

Littlewoods chairman to quit at AGM

By Jon Ashworth

Ross: new "heavyweight"

THE Littlewoods pools-to-retailing empire was plunged into fresh controversy yesterday, when it announced that Leonard van Geest, chairman for the past six years, is to quit at next month's annual meeting. His successor is James Ross, who was ousted from Cable and Wireless in November after a damaging boardroom rift.

Mr van Geest appears to be the latest victim of the in-fighting which has gripped members of the controlling Moores family. Barry Dale, the former chief executive, was fired a year ago, and later returned with a troublesome £1.2 billion takeover bid for the company. Littlewoods recently disclosed a 16 per cent fall in pre-tax profits.

Littlewoods insisted yesterday that the parting was amicable, but conceded that Mr van Geest, 46, had agreed to make way for a "heavyweight" chairman with an expanded role. He earned £225,000 in 1994, and is likely to command at least as much in compensation.

The company said: "The changes will lead to a clear separation between ownership and management issues and to adjustments in the structure of the board and the responsibilities of its members. These new developments are designed to introduce clarity and best practice in the governance of Littlewoods and improve the performance of all the businesses."

Mr van Geest as much as acknowledged his past difficulties when he said: "I am confident that my successor will benefit from having a more clearly defined role and greater responsibilities." A Littlewoods spokesman added: "He recognised that we have widened the scope of the job."

Mr Ross, who was chief executive of Cable and Wireless for four years, said he was looking forward to leading Littlewoods into a new era.

Pennington, page 27

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THE INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Rejection for single European currency

BUSINESS leaders at the Institute of Directors annual conference yesterday overwhelmingly rejected Britain's participation in a single European currency. By voting to reject it the conference in London supported the strongly Eurosceptical line of the institute's leadership.

In place of a traditional business conference format, IoD leaders decided to devote the whole of the institute's conference to Europe, and arranged debates on two key issues of a single currency and a social chapter, with speakers both for and against. Arguing against a single currency,

EMU DEBATE

Lord Tebbit, a former Trade and Industry Secretary, said monetary union was simply a stepping-stone for politicians seeking a federal Europe.

He said: "The single currency is not about economics, it is about politics, and since when has subordinating politics to economics done anyone any good?" Quoting William Gladstone, the former Prime Minister, he said: "The finances of this country are intimately associated with the liberty of this country." But joining a currency union undermines the ability of countries to adjust their economic policies to national needs: "The political risk would be incalculable."

Lord Tebbit was backed by Sir John Hoskyns, a former IoD Director-General and founder of Hoskyns Group, who said: "I believe the single currency project will do business enormous damage." Combining currencies would block modernisation of developing states such as Estonia and Portugal, while structural differences, such as the way pension funds are financed, would cause huge strains.

But Georges Jacobs, chairman of the Federation of Belgian Industry, said that as a pragmatic businessman, he saw five reasons why a single currency would be in the UK's long term interest.

Business accounting would be simplified, and currency conversion costs of £18 billion a year saved, he said. Britain's sovereignty over its economy would rise, because it would have a say in European monetary policy, rather than be dominated by decisions of the Bundesbank, as at present. Prices would be more stable, and interest rates lower, because the economy would be well managed. Trade would be promoted by exchange-rate stability and the single market would work better.

Alan Beith, deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, waved a £5 note issued in 1949 — worth 29p today, to illustrate the way Britain's currency had been devalued. Backing the case for monetary union, he said bond markets did not believe Britain had broken its cycle of surging inflation followed by rising interest rates: "We sound like Elizabeth Taylor after her eighth marriage, saying 'this time it will be different', nobody believes us."

A clear majority of speakers from the floor opposed a single currency, with seven against and three in favour. Business speakers said a single currency would hit UK business hard, and transfer control of Britain's economic policymaking to other EU countries.

UK prospects are bright, says Major

JOHN MAJOR, the Prime Minister, proclaimed Britain's economic prospects as "bright" on the basis of new survey evidence from company directors in the UK signalling a potential upturn in growth, with orders, output, profits and jobs all rising.

The findings of the latest business trends survey from the IoD contrast sharply with the results of the latest economic report from the Confederation of British Industry, which this week painted its gloomiest recent picture of the state of the UK economy.

Privately, IoD leaders were surprised at how positive were the results of the survey — the first since being turned from a bi-monthly report to a quarterly study in line with other large-scale business surveys.

While they refused to accept that its findings might have been influenced by the methodological changes, they acknowledged that the alterations make impossible comparisons with previous IoD surveys and emphasised the need to consider its results over time after a number of surveys in the new format have been carried out.

They emphasised that because the survey included the more buoyant service sector, rather than just the CBI's manufacturing base, its results reflected a better industrial spread.

Welcoming the findings, Mr Major told the conference in London: "The survey confirms what many of us have felt for some time — that the economic prospects are bright. They will get brighter, and, increasingly, we have a lot to be positive about in this country."

Lord Young, IoD president, proclaimed the survey's findings as signalling the return of the long sought for "feel-good" factor in the economy.

The IoD's survey of 500 company directors showed a strong company performance over the past three months. The institute suggested its results were consistent with a forecast of 2.5 per cent growth in the

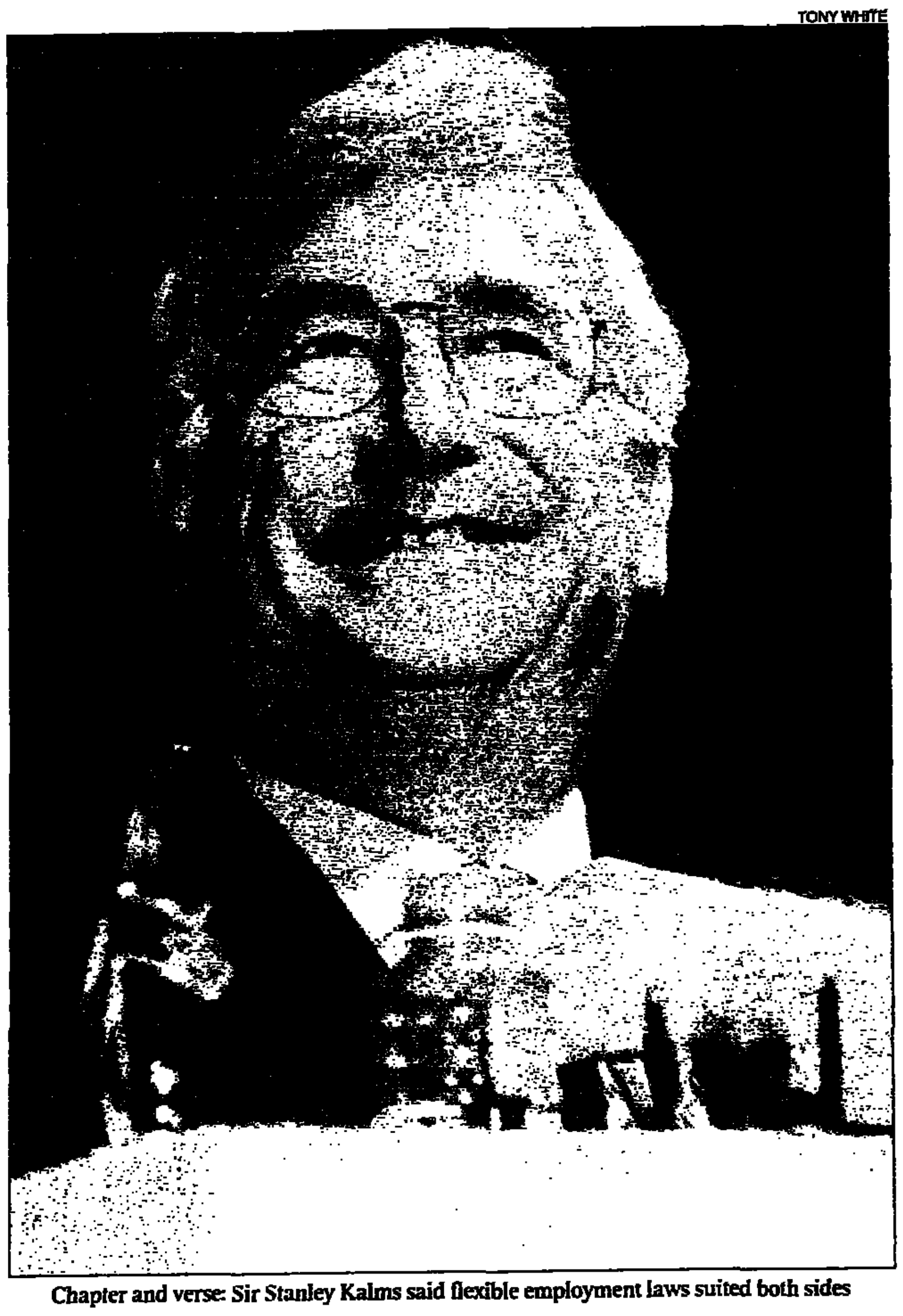
THE ECONOMY

economy this year. IoD analysts suggested the Chancellor and the Bank of England might have to raise interest rates to restrain economic growth, although they said that there were dangers in the possibility of a substantial stock correction and a prolonged recession in Europe.

A balance of 69 per cent of directors felt their company was performing well. Demand was quite strong, with a balance of 29 per cent reporting above-normal order books.

Employment had seen a "significant increase" over the past three months, but 27 per cent said overall costs had been rising.

TONY WHITE



Chapter and verse: Sir Stanley Kalms said flexible employment laws suited both sides

Social chapter is given short shrift

LEADERS of the IoD massively rejected the European social chapter and insisted on the Government's retaining of its opt-out from Europe-wide employment regulation.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, said that legislation could not create more or better jobs — only business could do that. Regulations destroyed jobs, he told business leaders: "We need to keep government off your backs, so that you can put your backs into creating jobs. Europe hasn't done that."

The Conservative Government has made the UK job market "the most lightly regulated, lowest social cost labour market in Europe. As a result

EMPLOYMENT

our unemployment is now below the level every other major European country — and falling."

Signing the social chapter, he said, would be particularly damaging to Britain. Europe would harmonise to the most onerous, rigid and costly employment regime, and the move would give more power to the unions in Britain. Employment laws, too, would not be uniformly observed.

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, warned company directors not to vote against European measures supported by such key Conservatives as Baroness Thatcher, who had approved legislation under which directives were coming forward to set maximum hours of work.

He said that the UK opt-out now looked "shaky", especially on European works councils, adding that lurking behind the IoD's motion on the social chapter was the idea that deregulation was a good thing: "Well, it has not done the British beef industry much good."

Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of the Dixons retail group, said he was firmly opposed to the social chapter. "There are bad employers, but laws won't get rid of them," he said. "Most employers in this country are good employers. They can't afford not to be." Flexible employment laws and part-time working suited companies and employees alike. The social chapter is wrong in principle and wrong in practice, and it won't work — and those without work will never forgive us if we accept it."

REPORTS BY PHILIP
BASSETT AND
ROSS TIEMAN

USAir cuts losses to $32.3m

USAir, which is 25 per cent owned by British Airways, has recorded a net loss of $32.3 million in the first quarter of this year.

Stephen Wolf, the new chairman, said that he was disappointed with the result in a quarter when other airlines had reported record profits. It is, however, an improvement on the $42 million loss reported by the company at the same time last year.

Mr Wolf said that business was lower than normal in January and February because of harsh winter weather. March had seen a return to a normal level. There was a rise in revenues from $1.8 billion to $1.9 billion.

Youard quits

Richard Youard, the investment ombudsman for Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, is to stand down on May 1. He will be replaced by Peter Dean, deputy chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Stake rises

Amersham International, the UK-based health science group, is to buy a further 30 per cent stake in Nihon Medi-Physics, the Japanese nuclear medicine company, spending £51.4 million to achieve joint ownership with NMP's parent company, Sumitomo Chemicals.

Lloyds appeal

Lloyds Bank last night said that it wanted time to consider a High Court judgment concerning its £4 billion staff pension scheme that could cost around £100 million.

PNE in black

Preston North End, the Alternative Investment Market-listed football club, has reported pre-tax profits of £42,000 (£217,000 loss) in the six months to December 31.

Argos signed

Burford Holdings, the property group, has signed up Argos, the catalogue retail group, for a 400,000 sq ft centre on the Heywood Distribution Park near Manchester.

FINANCIAL NEWS
FROM BANK OF SCOTLAND

Bank of Scotland
Annual Results

	1996	1995
TOTAL PROFIT FROM GROUP OPERATIONS BEFORE PROVISIONS	£706.4m	£650.0m
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	£545.0m	£449.7m
TOTAL CAPITAL RESOURCES	£3,533m	£2,731m
TOTAL ASSETS	£44,099m	£34,104m
EARNINGS PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT	25.8p	22.3p
DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT	6.85p	5.82p

○ Total profit from Group operations before provisions a record £706.4 million

○ Profit before taxation up 21 per cent on 1995

○ Dividend increased by 17.7 per cent

○ Cost : Income ratio 52.1 per cent

BANK OF SCOTLAND
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

For a copy of the Bank's Annual Report contact the Marketing Services and Public Relations Department, Bank of Scotland, Uberior House, PO Box 12, 61 Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2JF.

MP attacks society over income plans

By Robert Miller

A CONSERVATIVE MP yesterday attacked a Midlands building society as "an utter disgrace" over its selling of unsuitable home income plans to elderly investors.

William Powell, MP for Corby, who has campaigned for compensation for people who, in the 1980s, were sold stock market-based plans subsequently banned by City authorities, singled out the West Bromwich Building Society for particular criticism.

Mr Powell said many people had been left with debt of £20,000 each, in spite of the Investors Compensation Scheme paying some compensation. He told the Commons: "I indict the management and the directors of the West Bromwich for behaviour and conduct which can only be described as an utter disgrace." The society had tried to "stifle criticism by the use of writs".

Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said: "I will continue to do all that is within my power . . . to see the issue resolved."

The West Bromwich last night accused Mr Powell of relaunching "a stale campaign" and said his speech was littered with "inaccuracies".

Siemens' income up 15%

SOARING sales in Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe helped to boost half-year results from Siemens, the German electronics company (Clare Stewart writes). Lower restructuring costs also contributed to the 15 per cent rise in net income to DM1.08 billion in the period to March this year.

The strength of international markets helped to offset weakness in Germany where sales fell by 5 per cent against last year. By comparison Asia-Pacific saw a 20 per cent sales growth, with a 45 per cent increase in Eastern Europe, resulting in a 6 per cent sales growth worldwide to DM42.3 billion.

Strong growth in orders was recorded by Siemens communications division, as well as in power generation, where orders rose by 16 per cent.

Gilts issue in demand

Bank of England officials breathed a sigh of relief after safely seeing away the first gilts issue of the new fiscal year. The £3 billion sale by auction of 7½ per cent Treasury Stock 2006 yesterday was almost three time oversubscribed, predominantly by fund managers although private investors contributed nearly £2 million to the new issue.

Fears had been expressed within the City and at the Treasury that a £3 billion issue was over-ambitious but the market showed a surprising appetite for the government IOUs. Last year's gilts auctions raised £31.1 billion, with the final one raising a similar amount to yesterday's issue. The next is due on May 29.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.02	1.86
Austria Sch	17.23	15.73
Belgium Fr	50.36	46.06
Canada $	2.169	2.009
Cyprus Cyp£	0.755	0.700
Denmark Kr	9.51	8.71
Finland Mkk	7.88	7.23
France Fr	8.20	7.55
Germany Dm	2.46	2.25
Greece Dr	384.00	359.00
Hong Kong $	12.37	11.37
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.2000	4.5500
Italy Lira	2466.00	2311.00
Japan Yen	175.50	159.50
Malta	0.595	0.540
Netherlds Gld	2.733	2.503
New Zealand $	2.37	2.15
Norway Kr	10.51	9.71
Portugal Esc	247.50	229.00
S Africa Rd	6.94	6.14
Spain Pta	199.00	186.00
Sweden Kr	10.85	10.05
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.82
Turkey Lira	116718.	108718.
USA $	1.613	1.483

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller'scheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

This notice is issued in compliance with the requirements of London Stock Exchange Limited (the 'London Stock Exchange'). A Prospectus relating to Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc dated 24 April 1996 has been published. Application has been made for all of the 'C' Shares of Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc to be issued to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that admission will become effective and that dealings in the 'C' Shares will commence on 22 May 1996.

Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc

(Incorporated in Scotland under the Companies Act 1985 with registered number 126524)

Placing and Offer for Subscription
of up to
75,000,000 'C' Shares of £1 each
at 100p per share
(payable in full on application)
sponsored by
Dickson Minto W.S.

Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc is an investment trust the investment objective of which is to invest in small UK quoted companies.

Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc has received irrevocable undertakings to apply for in aggregate 65,000,000 'C' Shares in the Placing, applications in pursuance of which will be accepted in full. The Offer for Subscription for up to 10,000,000 'C' Shares will be available for subscription by existing shareholders and warrantholders and the public. Applications (which should each be for a minimum of 250,000 'C' Shares (making a minimum subscription per application of £250,000) except in the case of market makers) should be received by not later than 10.00 a.m. on 15 May 1996.

Copies of the Prospectus and application forms for use in the Offer for Subscription can be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (excluding Saturdays and public holidays) up to and including 15 May 1996 from:

Aberforth Partners
14 Melville Street
Edinburgh EH3 7NS

Dickson Minto W.S.
Royal London House
22–25 Finsbury Square
London EC2A 1DS

In addition, copies of the Prospectus can be obtained, by collection only, for two business days from the date of this notice from the Company Announcements Office, the London Stock Exchange, London Stock Exchange Tower, Capel Court, London EC2.

Dickson Minto W.S. is regulated by the Law Society of Scotland

25 April 1996

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☐ Fallout from Lang's electric shocker ☐ Reform of archaic shareholder regulations ☐ Still more to do at Spurs

A smell of burnt insulation

☐ ANY political decision that upsets several hundred thousand people is a courageous one. Ian Lang cannot be faulted for lack of courage, therefore, as he hacks his way out of the National Power impasse.

The blocking of two bids yesterday is clearly a political decision, no matter how it is dressed up with references to the public interest, and it seems designed to keep National Power out of America hands. Those thousands of investors in Southern and Midlands are not going to get their money now, and those in other regional electricity companies stand a rather smaller chance of being taken over too.

The putting together of a generator and a distributor, ahead of the coming of the competitive market in 1998 that allows the one to sell to customers of the other, was the ideal next step in the consolidation of the industry, and the MMC, it is clear from the report, was not much against it. The Commission could see no way that an integrated company would be in a position to raise prices.

Mr Lang's decision seems to fly in the face of this. It also means that thousands of National Power shareholders will not be seeing their profits either once Southern of Atlanta plucks up courage and bids, because it will also have to be referred. Nor will the City institutions, who have been betting heavily on such an offer.

The political advantage is that we will not see a complete dismemberment of the power industry, courtesy of the Americans, just before the election. They have the option of selling all of their holding in the regional company South Western as a condition of bidding again. But what odds that even then some reason for blocking a bid might be found?

When they flogged off the electricity industry it was expected to prove a dull backwater of the stock market, a collection of identical utilities. Instead it has given rise to any number of shocks, and the bidding frenzy is not necessarily over. Yesterday's falls may turn out to be overdone.

The Lang decision throws up a few anomalies. First, pity poor PowerGen, whose bid, on the above analysis, has fallen foul of the Americans' designs on National Power. Second, Scottish Power, a generator, was earlier allowed to buy a regional distributor, Manweb, although the distinction could perhaps be made that they operate in different markets, Scotland having its own power industry.

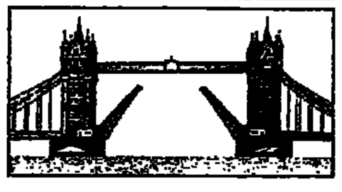
Third, what of Eastern, allowed to build up 12 per cent of the generating market? This has come about at the instigation of the regulator, who forced the generators to sell the plant and apparently approved this vertical integration again yesterday. Those deals should surely now go to the MMC. But will a disgruntled National Power, whose sale clearly assumed a clearance, allow the deal to go ahead now, or hold off and damn the regulator to do his worst?

Open season on companies

☐ THERE is a mood of paranoia about in the boardroom. It is the annual meeting season again, and those who remember the horrors inflicted by shareholders in the past are keen to limit the damage this year.

The whole of company law as it relates to annual meetings and shareholders' rights, like much

PENNINGTON



in this sceptered isle, is in need of a good shake-up. Current law dates back to the days when most companies were family concerns, the meeting took place in the front parlour chaired by the family solicitor and all adjourned for a sherry afterwards.

Hence the archaic votes by show of hands, only superseded by a poll of proxy votes if things get too controversial. Hence, too, those curious bands in accounts that spell out directors' salaries anonymously, a relic from more gentlemanly days. Hence the placing of articles of association, details of directors' service contracts and other juicy morsels safely behind glass at head office, away from the rude public gaze.

These rules were not designed for companies with shareholder bases running into several millions. Furthermore, this is the time of the active shareholder, and some boards are doing their best to limit their incursions.

British Aerospace has had to backtrack on scrapping the annual vote on its report and accounts, which along with the non-appointment of directors up by rotation is the final nuclear trigger for disaffected investors. This was part of a raft of damage limitation measures aimed at protesters complaining about Hawk sales to Indonesia, but the company still wants to ditch votes on a show of hands.

The case for reform is compelling. Research due soon from Pensions and Investments Research Consultancy shows cases where genuine dissent, as registered by proxy votes, was stifled by a near-unanimous show of hands at the meeting. It also throws up the extraordinary fact that a fifth of all proxy votes are discretionary — in other words, handing over all power to the chairman rather than taking any firm line. How do you square active investment with handing the company a large chunk of voting power to be used to shut out the views of those who actually bother to attend?

Sugar plays a blinder

☐ ENGLAND manager Terry Venables may have been winning plaudits for his football tactics yesterday but it was his erstwhile business partner Alan Sugar who was showing that when it comes to football club finance he is the master tactician.

Sugar has scored a double victory. He has pleased the fans by raising funds to rebuild the North London club's stadium without touching the club's precious transfer money pool. But he has also satisfied the City by improving the shares' poor liquidity and hinting that Tottenham is serious about dividends.

By reducing his stake to 40 per cent without selling, Mr Sugar has cleverly sidestepped any accusations of treachery that may have echoed from the terraces. He seems to have learnt a little about the psychology of fans from the sudden and unhappy departure last summer of star player Jürgen Klinsmann. In future crises he can emphasise his long-term loyalty while pointing to the fact that he no longer has majority control.

But football is, who could resist the phrase, a game of two halves and Tottenham has a long way to go before it can be compared with Manchester United as an investment opportunity. Mr Sugar admitted as much yesterday when he said that the club still had a lot of work to do before it had fully utilised all its assets. A few trophies in the boardroom would also help, but until then the club, like the rest, remains dangerously sensitive to the weekly results on the field.

Payoff punchline

☐ THE intra-tribal warfare at Littlewoods, between those who want the money and those who want the world to stop turning, has left three corpses. None of them family members, naturally; they include a former chief executive and, the latest, a departing chairman. We are not told whether he was on a revolving contract that would serve to boost his compensation payoff. But if James Ross, his successor, has any sense he will make very certain that he is.

Australian boost at Bank of Scotland

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

BANK of Scotland yesterday proved that its decision to build up an Australian business instead of following the recent trend of banks to buy building societies had paid off when it announced a 21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £545 million.

Sir Bruce Pattullo, governor, said that although he would never rule out the possibility of buying a building society, the bank had decided that the acquisition of a 51 per cent stake in Bank of Western Australia was a better use of its capital.

He said that the prices being paid for societies were too high. "The building society movement has had its day."

The bank intends to split the role of chairman and chief executive, combined by Sir Bruce since 1991. Peter Burt, treasurer and chief general manager, will become chief executive in June. Sir Bruce will remain chairman.

Excluding non-recurring items, profits were £484.4 million, with growth at 16 per cent. Bad debt provisions fell from £221.5 million to £177.1 million. The main clearing bank operations contributed £333.7 million before tax, up 13 per cent. NWS Bank, the consumer credit business, increased profits 6 per cent to £121.7 million in spite of a 17 per cent increase in costs.

Profits at British Linen Bank, its merchant banking arm, more than doubled to £36 million. Kellock, the factoring operation, held profits at £4.2 million. The contribution from Countrywide Banking Corporation, its New Zealand bank, was £5.1 million higher at £26.7 million. The first-time contribution from Bank of Western Australia, for the three months to February 29, was £19.7 million.

About 14,000 staff will benefit from a £31.5 million profit-sharing pot. They will receive 15 per cent of their salaries, which assuming an average salary of £15,000 is an average of £2,250.

The dividend for the year has been increased to 6.85p, up 17.7 per cent, with the final payment of 4.4p payable on June 21.

Tempus, page 28

Forte close to bidding for hotels

By Clare Stewart

PLANS for Sir Rocco Forte's return to the hotel industry are nearing completion with details of a major City funding package due within weeks.

Sir Rocco, who lost control of the Forte group in January after a bitterly fought £3.8 billion battle with Granada, is said to be near to securing up to £1 billion of City backing to help to finance a bid for former Forte hotels that Granada is looking to sell.

"Matters are at a sensitive stage," said a spokesman for Sir Rocco. It is thought that he and his team are talking to a number of City investment banks and venture capital groups, and that details of the funding will be finalised soon.

Sir Rocco announced his intention to return to hotels after Granada's victory, with his sights set on the Meridien and Exclusive hotels.

JJB Sports shoots ahead to defy City

By Clare Stewart

JJB SPORTS, the sports retailer, notched up another top performance as pre-tax profits leapt 70 per cent to £12.9 million in the year to January 31, beating City expectations.

However, the prolonged winter is blamed for early season problems. David Whelan, JJB's chairman and a former Blackburn Rovers footballer, said: "Five weeks ago trading was 3 per cent down on a like-for-like basis."

Rapid expansion helped to lift turnover 48 per cent to £89.6 million, with like-for-like sales ahead 15 per cent. The Wigan-based group opened 25 stores, taking the chain to 148 outlets at the year end. A further 40 sites are planned this year.

JJB also announced a two-for-one bonus share issue. A final dividend of 6p gives a total of 8.75p.

Tottenham £11m cash call for rebuilding

By Alasdair Murray

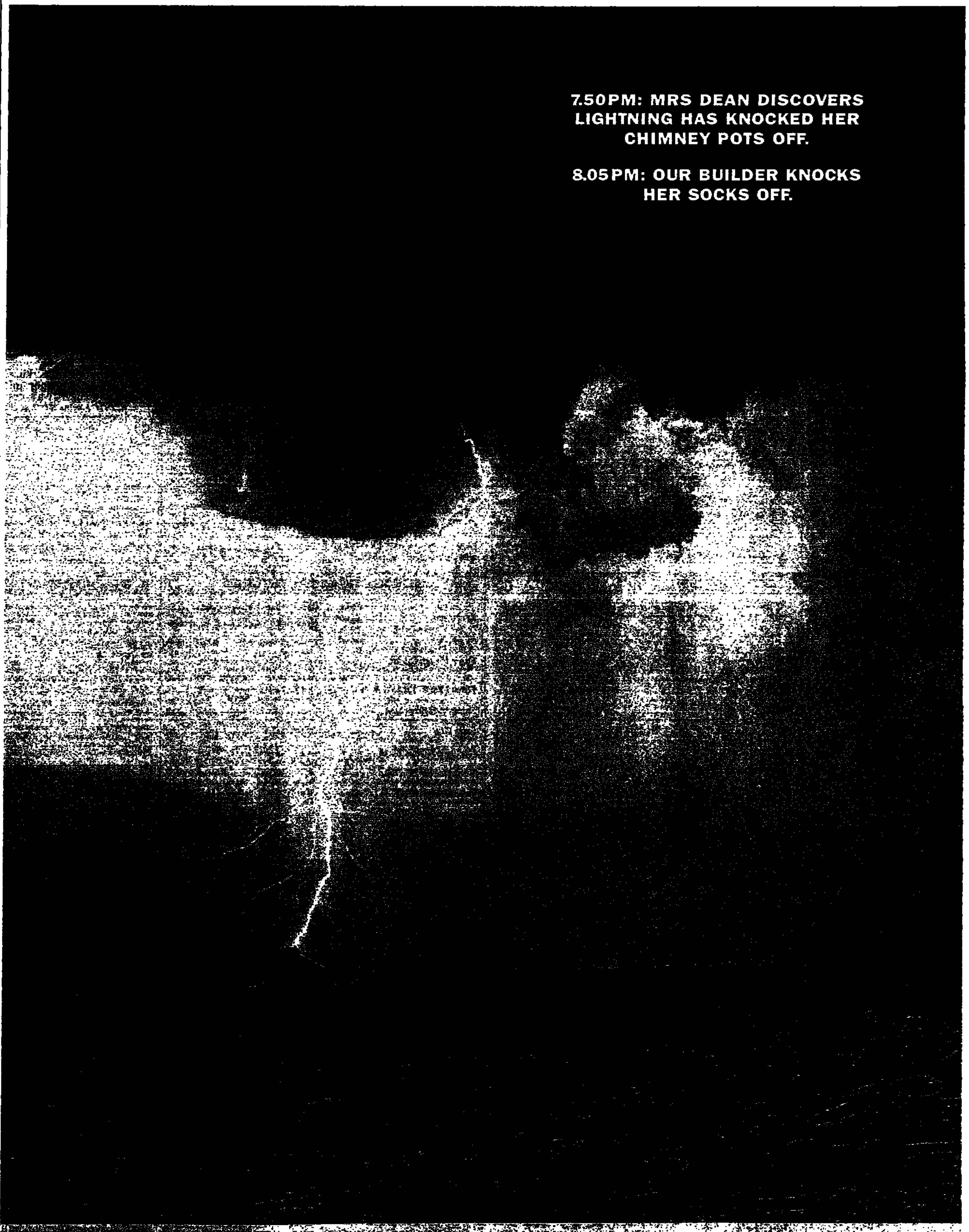
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR, the football club, yesterday launched an £11 million rights issue to help to fund the rebuilding of its White Hart Lane stadium in north London (see Pennington, this page).

The move will also improve liquidity at the club, with Alan Sugar, chairman, waiving his right to take up the new shares, reducing his holding from 51 per cent to about 41 per cent.

The club said Mr Sugar's allocation would instead be placed with new institutional investors. A total of four million new shares will be offered at 280p a share on a one-for-four basis. Dealings in the new shares will start today.

Mr Sugar insisted that he would not reduce his stake further. He said: "I could have sold shares and seen the money go into my own pocket, but we went for the rights issue so the money went into the club."

Tottenham said that trading had been good during the second half of the year and forecast a final dividend of 3p giving a total divdend of 4.5p, an increase of 50 per cent on last year.


7.50PM: MRS DEAN DISCOVERS LIGHTNING HAS KNOCKED HER CHIMNEY POTS OFF.
8.05PM: OUR BUILDER KNOCKS HER SOCKS OFF.

[illegible] same place twice? [illegible] by Guardian Direct. [illegible] lightning when he [illegible] damaged in a thunder- [illegible] minutes after the incident was reported.

The [illegible] owners, who had only signed up with us five days earlier, were delighted when we agreed their claim on the spot, paying all the bills direct. Proof, if proof were needed, that we'll always try to settle your claim in a flash.

BETTER INSURANCE FOR THE WORLDLY WISE

Guardian
Guardian Royal Exchange Group

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Speculators count cost of blocked power bids

THE smell of burnt fingers wafted around the market place as City speculators began counting the cost of the *Government's decision to* block the two power bids.

There was a knee-jerk reac*tion to the news that* National Power's bid for Southern Electric and PowerGen's offer for Midlands Electricity were regarded by the Government as against the public interest. Prices managed to close above their worst of the day but losses were still recorded in **National Power**, down 32p at 564p on turnover of 22 million shares, **PowerGen**, 36p off at 570p, **Southern Electric**, 79p lower at 824p, and **Midlands**, 40p cheaper at 371p.

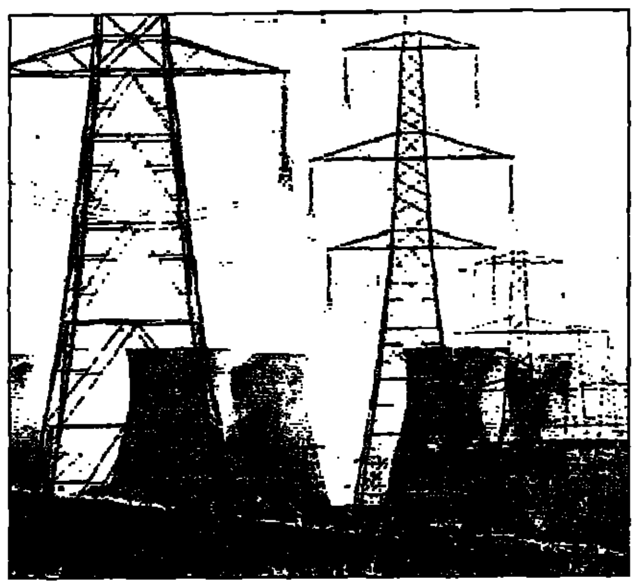
It had been assumed that the bids would be allowed to proceed, especially in the light of the proposed offer by Southern Company, the US utility, for National Power which reacted by issuing terms for the similarly named Southern Electric.

Now *the speculators* have been left wondering if the US utility, which already owns South Western Electricity, will be allowed to press home its advantage.

But the four companies *involved were not the only* casualties of the Government's decision. Double-figure losses were also recorded in **East Midland**, down 46p to 618p, **London**, 37p to 807p, **Northern**, 38p to 670p, and **Yorkshire**, *43p to 826p*. Among the other generators, **Scottish Power** dropped 19p to 373p, and **Scottish Hydro** fell 13p to 355p.

This dramatic turn of events also took its toll on the rest of the market which, up until the Government's announcement, had been trading in positive *territory for much of the day*. In the event, the FT-SE 100 index lost an 11-point lead to finish 15.4 down on the day at 3,817.6. The fall was compounded by a sharp opening fall by the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street.

The total shares changing hands reached 970 million enhanced by heavy turnover, yet again, in **Ladbroke**, up 9p to a new high of 205½p as a total of 26.3 million shares were traded. Speculators say we should hear news of a bid approach soon. Possible suitors include Hilton Hotels of the US. **Bass**, 1p lighter at 785p, and **Scottish & Newcastle**, *unchanged* at 683p.



Generators and Recs suffered losses after the DTI decision

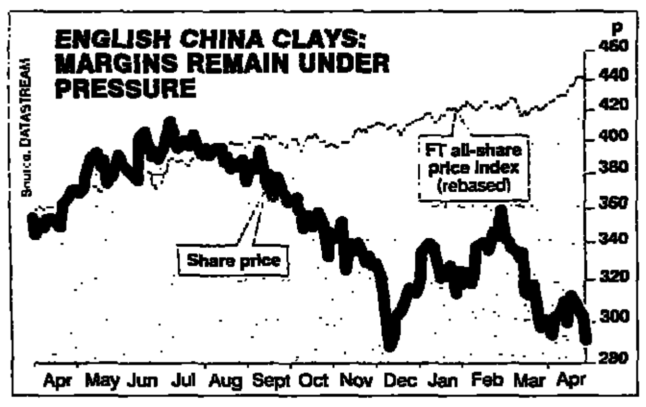
ICI was a firm market, climbing 24p to 954p ahead of first-quarter figures today expected to show a profits decline.

One of the best moves on the day was seen in **The Telegraph**, publisher of *The Daily Telegraph*, which soared 96p to 559p, almost matching terms of a minority bid by Hollinger, the company controlled by Conrad Black, the publisher. But there was little celebrating among City investors after last year's failed attempt to take the company private. The news from the Telegraph also directed attention at other newspaper publishers. ***Daily Mail and* General Trust** rose 120p to £17.05, **Mirror Group** 5p to 235p, and **United News & Media** 10p to 685p.

Rentokil's Clive Thompson was talking to institutions hoping to obtain their support for his group's £2.1 billion bid for BET. Earlier this week, three institutions, including M&G Investment Management, BZW Investment Management and Hermes put their weight behind the BET board and said they would be rejecting the increased offer of 217p a share from **Rentokil**, down 1p at 35½. **BET** also lost 1½p at 204p.

Asda, the supermarket chain, slipped 1½p to 111½p in heavy trading that saw more than 11 million shares change hands, after one leading broker slashed its forecast. NatWest Securities has turned cautious of Asda, cutting *its pre-tax profit estimate* for the current year to April 1997, by £12 million to £240 million.

Another warning about difficult trading conditions left **English China Clays** nursing a fall of 12p at 291p. Lawrence Urquhart, chairman, told *shareholders at the annual* meeting that the weak trading of the final quarter last year had continued into the first quarter this time round. Continued destocking meant that *production rates in paper* mills were still low.



The City gave a lukewarm reception to full-year figures from **Bank of Scotland** which at first revealed a creditable performance showing pre-tax profits soaring from £449 million to £545 million. But closer inspection revealed the figures had been bolstered by one-off profit contributions and a sharp drop in the *provision for bad and doubtful* debts. The shares responded with a fall of 7p to 251p.

Tottenham Hotspur jumped 14p to a new high of 324p after the north London football club announced plans *to raise almost £11 million by* way of a rights issue. The proceeds will be used to construct a new stand at its White Hart Lane stadium.

A bumper set of figures and encouraging remarks about current trading lifted **Bentalls**, the department store retailer, 11p to 111p.

Modest demand in a thin market hoisted **Domnick Hunter**, the engineer, 29p to a new high of 394p. Marketmakers will normally only make a price in 5,000 shares at a time.

Shares in ***Active Imaging*** made a positive start to trading on the Alternative Investment Market after a placing of shares by Beeson Gregory, the broker, at 112p. The group started life at 128p and touched 138p before *settling* at 133p, a premium of 21p.

Elsewhere on the AIM, **Dean Corporation** held steady at 13p after a placing of 3.74 million new shares at 11p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Traders had to contend with a volatile market as bids went in for the latest auction. The issue, £3 *billion of Treasury 7½ per cent* 2006, was 2.65 times subscribed with investors paying a total of £7.95 billion. Once it became clear that the issue had been got away safely, prices in the rest of the market came off the boil.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt fell five *ticks to £106⅛. In longs,* Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell £7/16 to £97 21/32, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a tick easier at £102 7/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street was troubled by program selling and an indifferent bond market. At midday, the *Dow Jones industrial average* was down 35.05 at 5,553.54.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	5553.54 (-35.05)
S&P Composite	*650.02 (-1.56)*

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	22282.05 (+162.17)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	10898.69 (+9.64)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	*553.88 (+1.63)*

Sydney:

AO	2322.10 (+22.10)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2538.26 (-11.92)

Singapore:

Straits	2381.18 (+2.45)

Brussels:

General	9095.97 (+39.46)

Paris:

CAC-40	2122.10 (+10.12)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	793.60 (+2.80)

London:

FT 30	2851.9 (-6.9)
FT 100	3817.6 (-15.4)
FT-SE Mid 250	4544.7 (+4.6)
FT-SE-A 350	1930.9 (-5.6)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1683.71 (+1.23)
FT A All-Share	1912.25 (-4.64)
FT Non Financials	2045.32 (-5.44)
FT Fixed Interest	112.26 (+0.16)
FT Govt Secs	92.67 (+0.25)
Bargains	37002
SEAQ Volume	970.6m
USM (Datastrm)	212.00 (+0.34)
US$	1.5128 (-0.0018)
German Mark	2.3022 (+0.0032)
Exchange Index	84.0 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2056
£:SDR	1.0448
RPI	*151.5 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987=100*
RPIX	150.9 Mar (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Active Imaging	133	...
Advent VCT	95	...
British Smaller Co's	95	...
Cambridge Wtr NV	303	- 5
Cap for Co's VCT (100)	95	...
Cardcast (85)	85	- 1
Cliveden (73)	85	...
Close Brothers VCT	95	...
Dicom Group (270)	330	...
Easynet Group (100)	*100*	- 1
FI Group (235)	314	+ 9
Gartmore VCT	96	...
Guinness Flight VCT	95	...
Hill Sml UK Emg Cos	97	...
Hurlingham Props	70	- 10
ILP Group (75)	100	...
Orange (205)	229	- ½
Pacific Horizon Wts	17	...
Pennine AIM VCT	95	...
Quester VCT	95	...
Raphael Zorn (32)	35	...
Rebus	106	- 3
Romtec	73	+ 5
Scottish Asian C	102½	...
Silver Shield (3)	*3¼*	...
Taverners Trust Uts	518	...
Templeton C&E Euro	26	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Barratt Dev n/p (200)	71	- 2
Bemrose n/p (325)	65	+ 2
Benson Group n/p (40)	1¼	- 1¼
Cap Reg 675% CLS n/p	5	- 1
Estates & Gen n/p (60)	5	...
Flare n/p (150)	8	...
Guinness Peat n/p (30)	6½	...
Ind Cnt Svc n/p (90)	21	...
Tepnel Life n/p (40)	27	+ 2

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Bentalls	111p (+11p)
Dencora	155p (+12p)
S&U	401p (+20p)
Pegasus	250p (+10p)

FALLS:

Anagen	47p (-10p)
Memory Corp	200p (-30p)
Filtronic Com	423p (-12p)
DFS Furniture	*513p (-12p)*

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

A victim of the market

BET is living up to its reputation as a late developer. *In the final week of the bid*, it woke up and rallied a few institutions to its cause, persuading one to endorse publicly the *management. The company* asked institutions to ignore years of underperformance and focus on the last two when it has clearly *delivered some* good growth. Yesterday it mischievously published some research which suggested that bidders that issue paper tend to underperform after the takeover, and that Rentokil might do likewise.

The research is not new and shareholders in BET would be wise to note that investors in targets do tend to do better than investors in bidding companies. The costs of the bid alone could top £100 million, enough to wipe out BET's profits *last year* and *for shareholders*, the logical conclusion is to take the cash available — *Rentokil* could be buying again today — and avoid the overheated shares.

Known supporters of BET currently *total* 17.5 per cent of the share capital and they are interesting for being of a *similar* ilk — fund managers that seek undervalued *stocks and* who tend to support managements long term. Many of the funds that sold out to Rentokil this week were also turning *up their nose at Rentokil* shares — too highly rated, they sniffed.

If BET loses on Friday, it will be in good part a casualty of a *market* that has lost interest in recovery stocks. The recent performance of fund managers like M&G is evidence *alone but investors* should be suspicious of a share market that is chasing bid rumours and pushing up the price of *highly rated* "growth stocks". A correction looks overdue.

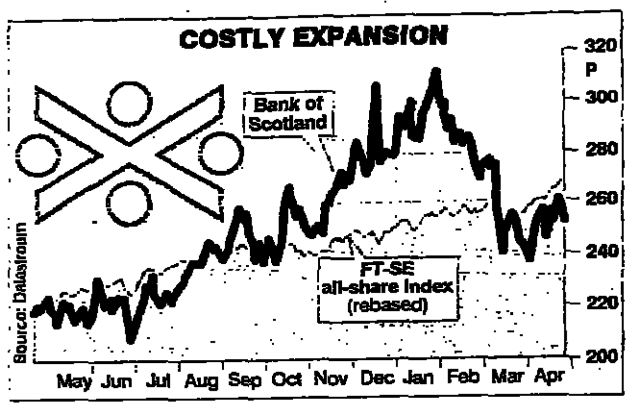
Bank of Scotland

A STOCK market obsessed with cash windfalls, bids and other short-term gains had no time to listen to Bank of Scotland yesterday and gave the thumbs down to its cost increase. Granted, the bank's figures were confusing given the profusion of *non-recurring* items and a first-time contribution from Bank of Western *Australia*. Investment in staff and systems sent the bank's cost-income *ratio from* 49.8 to 52.1 per cent. Excluding exceptional revenue gains, the figure worsens to 53.4 per cent.

Expenditure will remain high this year, keeping *the* cost-income ratio static, but the *critics forget that the* BofS ratio is miles below those of its competitors. NatWest, for example is 67.9 per cent, and the best it can hope for is a reduction to 58 per cent in the UK by the year 2000. Meanwhile, Bank of Scotland should get back to normal levels next year.

The bank's Australian acquisition was well received. *In hindsight, BofS was wise* to put its money overseas rather than in a medium-sized building society operating in a stagnant market.

The bank's shares are trading on a prospective price-earnings ratio of 9.65, lower than the sector average of 10.3 times. *Critics of Bank of* Scotland knock its conservatism, but when the bank invests, they then criticise it for increasing costs. That is a pity — its investment in NWS is clearly paying off with increased profits. Investors need a little patience.



Platinum

IF YOU felt secure in your knowledge of Europe's borders, think again, because the European Commission believes they extend as far as Johannesburg. The Competition *Commissioner* has decided *to block* the platinum merger between Lonrho and Gencor, arguing that it would *create a dominant* duopoly between Impala, the merged venture, with 25 per cent of the market, and Anglo American, which accounts for 35 per cent of the world's platinum.

American regulators will be amused to watch the Commission's extraterritori*al jurisdiction — Europe has* often objected to the long reach of the US Federal Trade Commission. More questionable is the likely effect of the ruling. The commissioner clearly fears that the platinum price is being fixed over lunch in Jo'burg. Were that the case, *blocking the Lonrho/Gencor* deal will solve little. Before the merger the two *companies* were already holding hands, with Impala owning 27 per cent of Lonrho's platinum operation while Gencor had 46.5 per cent of Impala.

Europe is a large consumer of platinum, but its consumption of 0.8 million ounces pales beside Japan, which absorbs 2.2 million ounces, *mainly in jewellery*, out of the 4.7 million produced worldwide annually. But the main influence on the price is Russia, which has about a quarter of the market and is selling off its stockpiles of the *metal in search of hard* currency.

The Commission's desire *to kill off another cosy South* African cartel may be welcomed, even in that country, but it has probably achieved only a propaganda victory. Even now, Anglo American is amassing shares in Lonrho and the prospect of a merger of the platinum interests of those two companies would *doubtless be even less tolerable*. In the end, this little problem will probably be solved over lunch in Jo'burg, just as the Competition Commissioner feared.

Amersham

THE market seems to have forgotten that Amersham promised an extension of its interest in Nihon Medi-Physics, *Amersham's nuclear* medicine joint venture with Sumitomo Chemical. In the event, it has done the deed earlier and for a better price.

The result is a boost to earnings of about 8 per cent, but even more interesting is the creation an Anglo-Saxon and Japanese joint venture in Japan. *Such animals are normally* confined to distribution, but Amersham has achieved the trick of putting together medical research and manufacturing to give it a half share in 60 per cent of the Japanese market for nuclear medicine.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	1004-1003	Jul	1044-1043
Jul	1033-1032	Sep	unq
Sep	1054-1053	Dec	..
Dec	1020-1019	Mar	—
Mar	1021-1020		
May	1035-1033		Volume: 10843

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1967-1964	Jan	1940-1939
Jul	1970-1966	Mar	1930-1905
Sep	1962-1959	May	1900-1880
Nov	1958-1953		Volume: 7674

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	326.0-25.0
Spot: 389.5		*May*	*325.0-23.0*
Aug	367.5-66.8	Aug	327.0-24.1
Oct	341.5-41.0	Oct	317.0-14.1
Dec	334.5-33.5		Volume: 1267

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 23

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	104.34	132.95	107.10
(+/-)	-2.86	-26.02	+6.34
Eng/Wales:	103.77	166.08	107.11
(+/-)	-2.48	-13.05	+6.52
(%)	+4.0	-23.0	+21.0
Scotland:	114.26	149.06	107.08
(+/-)	-3.58	-18.92	+5.74
(%)	-32.0	n/c	+22.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	20.50	-0.30
Brent 15 day (Jun)	20.00	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Jul)	19.05	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	22.55	(n/c)
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	20.90	(n/c)

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 228 (+4)	O: 230 (+4)
Gasoil EEC	184 (+1)	186 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H My	*180 (n/c)*	*182 (n/c)*
Non EEC 1H Jn	171 (+2)	174 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	114 (+2)	116 (+2)
Naphtha	196 (n/c)	198 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	174.00-74.25	Aug	165.50-65.75
Jun	169.25-69.50	Sep	164.75 SLR
Jul	166.50-66.75		Vol: 12530

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	20.04-20.10	Sep	17.90-18.00
Jul	19.18 BID	Oct	17.63 SLR
Aug	18.44 BID		Vol: 51964

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	133.00	May	118.00
Jul	135.30	Sep	113.00
Sep	118.25	Nov	114.25
Nov	120.75	Jan	117.00
Jan	122.90	*Mar*	*118.50*
Volume: 570		Volume: 64	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
May	161.0	163.0
Jun	*unq*	*225.0*
Nov	—	105.0
		Volume: 30

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

May 99.00-99.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 96	1470	1470	1463
May 96	1400	1395	1395
Jun 96	1330	1310	1310
Oct 96	1348	1340	1342
Vol: 70 lots		Open Interest: 4895	

Index 1455 +1

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2652.0-2655.0	2582.0-2583.0	1470450
Lead ($/tonne)	812.00-813.00	807.00-808.00	103000
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	*1033.5-1034.0*	*1059.5-1060.0*	*488100*
Tin ($/tonne)	6525.0-6530.0	6540.0-6550.0	21495
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1567.5-1568.5	1603.0-1603.5	1231050
Nickel ($/tonne)	7960.0-7965.0	8060.0-8070.0	60402

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
Alld Dom	500	20½	31	38	16¼	23½	32
(*509½)	550	7	13½	18½	54½	57¼	63½
Argyll	330	13½	19½	25	17½	21½	25½
(*330)	360	3½	9½	14	39½	42½	45
ASDA	110	6½	9½	12	4½	7	8
(*111½)	120	3	5½	7½	10½	12½	13½
Boots	600	53	61	68	7	13	18
(*645½)	650	20	31½	40	28½	34½	40
Br Airways	550	20½	31	39	23½	30	35
(*551)	600	4½	13	20	59	63	66½
BP	550	45½	54½	62	7	12½	15½
(*588)	600	17	26	34½	27	33	37½
Br Steel	180	21½	23	25½	4	6½	9½
(*198½)	200	8	11½	15½	12½	16	19
C & W	500	39	51	60	13½	20½	26½
(*527½)	550	16	27½	35½	39½	47	52
CU	550	45½	52½	59½	9	17½	20
(*580)	600	17½	26	34	30½	42½	44½
ICI	950	44½	59½	79	27½	42	50
(*955½)	1000	21½	36½	55½	55½	70	77½
Kingfshr	550	58	69½	84½	6½	13	18½
(*595)	600	25½	39	55	24	32½	38½
Land Sec	650	30	39	44½	13½	18½	23
(*675)	700	5	16	21	46	49	51½
M & S	430	37½	42½	49	3½	8	11
(*454)	460	10½	19	26	20	25	28½
Nat West	600	46	55½	65½	12	23½	25½
(*626)	650	19½	29	40½	35½	48½	50½
Sainsbury	360	12	19	24	15½	19	23
(*361½)	390	3	8½	13	38½	40	42½
Shell	850	36½	49½	58½	14½	24	28
(*863)	900	12½	23½	33	41	50½	53½
Smkl Bch	687	37	53	—	19½	30	—
(*698½)	736	16½	30½	—	48½	57½	—
Storehse	330	31½	39	—	6	10	—
(*354½)	360	12½	21½	—	18½	25	—
Trafalgar	50	1	1	—	0½	0½	—
(*50)	60	0	0	—	10	10	—
Unilever	1200	54	78	91	16	23½	39
(*1222½)	1250	26½	48½	62½	39½	46½	51
Zeneca	1350	87	118	147	32½	49½	59
(*1388)	1400	60½	91	120	55	71½	81
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Grnd Met	420	25½	36½	45	2	12	16
(*442)	460	5	15½	26	20	32½	36
Ladbroke	200	13	24	27½	7	13½	16
(*206)	220	6	15	19	11½	24½	26½
Utd Bisc	240	8	17½	21½	5	11	15½
(*240½)	260	1½	9	14	19½	23	27½

April 24, 1996 Tot: 29227 Call: 14806 *Put: 14421 FT-SE Call: 3283 Put: 6607*

*Underlying security price.

Series		Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
BAA	550	19½	30	37½	18½	24½	28½
(*551½)	600	4½	11	17½	54½	57½	60
Thames W	550	34	40½	46	15	19½	26
(*575)	600	9	17	23	46	49½	54½
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
BAT Ind	500	18½	36½	44½	6½	23	27½
(*511)	550	1½	14½	23	39½	53	56½
BTR	300	20	28	31½	0½	4	8
(*318½)	330	2	10½	15	12½	17	22½
Br Aero	850	29½	61	76½	8	27½	39½
(*869½)	900	7	36	51	35½	53	64
Br Telcm	360	14	25	28½	5	17½	21
(*369)	390	2	10½	14½	22½	36	39
Cadbury	500	27	44½	51	3	13	19
(*521)	550	4½	19½	27	30	38½	44½
Guinness	460	20	35½	42	3½	11½	16½
(*475½)	500	3	15½	22	26	32	36½
GEC	330	24	31	35	1	8½	11½
(*352)	360	4½	13½	19	11	23½	26½
Hanson	180	19	21½	23	0	3	5½
(*198½)	200	3½	9½	12	4½	11	14½
LASMO	180	16	23	28	2½	4½	7½
(*193)	200	5	12	17½	10	13	16½
Lucas	220	9	19	25	7½	14	19½
(*224)	240	4	11½	16½	20½	26	31½
Pilkingtn	210	8	13	—	3	10½	—
(*214)	229	1	5	—	19½	21½	—
Prudential	420	38	50½	58	0½	6	12½
(*456)	460	8	25½	34	11	20½	28½
Redland	430	16½	27	35	9	20	25½
(*432½)	460	1	11	18½	41	45½	49½
R-Royce	240	7½	17½	24½	5½	13	17
(*241)	260	1	9	16	19½	25	28½
Tesco	280	8	18½	24½	5½	11½	16½
(*282)	300	1½	10	15	19	23	28
Vodafone	240	17½	26	32½	5	9½	13
(*255)	260	5½	15	22	10	19	23
Williams	330	19	21½	25	3	9	14½
(*348)	360	1	7½	11	22½	26	31½

FT-SE INDEX (*3821)

	3700	3750	3800	3850	3900	3950
Calls						
May	139½	95	56	30½	13½	5
Jun	159	119½	88	61	38	23
Jul	181½	145	114	85	61	43
Aug	191½	157½	126	96½	76	57
Dec	264½	—	203	—	154	—
Puts						
May	8½	14½	28	52½	87	133
Jun	26	39	57	80½	108½	144½
Jul	45	58	77	98	124	155½
Aug	51	66½	85½	109	135½	167
Dec	100	—	137	—	187	—

Series		Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Puts Jun	Puts Sep	Puts Dec
Abby Nat	550	29½	42	53	10½	23	29
(*564)	600	8	18½	30	39½	51	56
Amstrad	180	20	27½	31	3½	7	9½
(*195)	200	8½	16½	21	11½	15½	18½
Barclays	700	51½	64	75	6	19	23
(*738½)	750	20	34½	47½	26	40½	45½
Blue Circ	330	31½	40½	49½	4	9	13½
(*355½)	360	12	23	28	15½	21½	26
Br Gas	240	8	14	18½	13	16	21
(*242½)	260	2	8	11	27½	29½	33
Dixons	460	36	45½	56	6½	16	19½
(*486)	500	13	24½	35	24½	35½	38½
Forte	343	36½	39	—	0	1	—
(*379)	373	9	14½	—	4	8	—
Tarmac	120	13	18	22	3	6	8½
(*129)	130	7	12½	15½	7	10	13½
Hillsdwn	180	5½	8½	11½	9	12	14½
(*182½)	200	1	3	5	20½	27	28
Lonrho	180	20½	23½	27½	1	4	5½
(*197½)	200	7	11½	16	7½	11½	13½
Sears	90	10	12	13	1	3	4
(*99½)	100	3	6½	8	5½	7½	8½
Thorn	1800	88	127	156	39½	74½	89
(*1835)	1900	44	81	111½	94	128½	142
Tomkins	260	11½	16½	20½	7	14	16½
(*261½)	280	4	8	12	20	27	28½
Lloyds TSB	292	34	—	—	2	—	—
(*321)	322	13½	—	—	11½	—	—
Series		**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**
Glaxo W	750	60½	77	85½	12	26	31
(*791)	800	30	48	58	30½	49½	54
HSBC	1000	53½	76	94	38	60	64½
(*1001½)	1050	31	53½	70½	66½	88	91½
Reuter	750	53	66	83½	22	39½	40
(*770½)	800	28½	40½	58½	49½	58½	63
Series		**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**
Royal Ins	360	34	32	38½	13½	22	25
(*365½)	390	11	18½	25½	31	38½	41½
Series		**Jun**			**Jun**		
Fisons	260	5	—	—	0½	—	—
(*265)	280	0	—	—	18½	—	—
Series		**May**			**May**		
Eastrn Gp	950	28½	—	—	0½	—	—
(*975)	1000	0½	—	—	25	—	—
Series		**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**
Natl Pwr	550	44	48	52	30½	36	35½
(*564½)	600	21½	28½	29½	58	62	64
Sotn Pwr	360	23½	30	33	8	13	14½
(*375)	380	7½	15½	20	21	29	31

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 63273	Jun 96	3850.0	3862.0	3823.0	3832.0	12918
	Sep 96	3868.0	3872.0	3842.0	3846.0	291
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3594	Jun 96	4590.0	4590.0	4590.0	4580.0	350
	Sep 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 363949	Jun 96	93.96	93.98	93.96	93.96	6895
	Sep 96	93.81	93.85	93.81	93.82	8553
	Dec 96	93.44	93.48	93.43	93.45	12951
Three Month Euro Yen	Sep 96	98.91	98.91	98.90	98.91	42
	Dec 96	98.61	98.61	98.60	98.61	346
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1098083	Jun 96	96.84	96.84	96.83	96.84	10196
	Sep 96	96.85	96.85	96.84	96.84	10176
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 117176	Jun 96	106-09	106-19	106-01	106-04	78024
	Sep 96				105-04	0
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 96	118.28	118.32	118.15	118.22	2917
	Sep 96	117.17	117.19	117.10	117.11	287
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 198835	Jun 96	97.07	97.32	97.02	97.08	135756
	Sep 96	96.24	96.30	96.17	96.18	1285
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 22389	Jun 96	95.77	95.80	95.77	95.79	1183
	Sep 96	95.77	95.81	95.77	95.80	565
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 55401	Jun 96	98.16	98.20	98.12	98.17	4358
	Sep 96	98.09	98.14	98.05	98.13	4392
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 55423	Jun 96	113.85	114.29	113.62	114.03	41317
	Sep 96	113.50	113.50	113.38	113.39	131

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½

Discount Market Loans: *O/night high: 6 Low 5 Week fixed: 5¾*

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5¾ ; 3 mth 5 11/16 . Sell: 2 mth 5 11/16 ; 3 mth: 5⅝ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5 29/32-5 27/32	5⅞-5 27/32	5⅞-5 27/32	5⅞-5 27/32	
Sterling Money Rates:	6-5 15/16	6-5 15/16	6-5 15/16	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6⅛
Interbank:	6-5 15/16	6-5 15/16	6-5 15/16	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6⅛

Overnight: open 6 . close 5 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	5 15/16	n/a	5 15/16	6	6¼
Sterling CDs:	5 31/32-5 29/32	5 31/32-5 29/32	5 31/32-5 29/32	6 1/32-5 31/32	6⅛-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.31	n/a	5.35	5.41	5.70
Building Society CDs:	6-5 15/16	6-5 15/16	6-5 15/16	6⅛-6	6¼-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5¼-5⅛	5⅜-5¼	5½-5⅜	5⅝-5½	5-4
Deutschemark:	3¼-3⅛	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3½-3⅜	3⅛-2⅞
French Franc:	3 13/16-3 11/16	3 13/16-3 11/16	3 13/16-3 11/16	3⅞-3¾	4-3
Swiss Franc:	2⅛-1 15/16	1 15/16-1¾	1 15/16-1 13/16	1 15/16-1 13/16	2-1
Yen:	½-¼	½-¼	9/16-7/16	11/16-9/16	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $391.00-391.40 **Close:** $390.65-391.15 **High:** $391.40-391.90
Low: $390.00-390.50 **AM:** $391.00 **PM:** $390.80

Krugerrand: $390.00-393.00 (£257.25-259.25)

Platinum: $401.50 (£265.35) **Silver:** $5.32 (£3.505) **Palladium:** $133.50 (£88.25)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 24	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5757-2.5794	2.5758-2.5783	⅝-½pr	2-1¾pr
Brussels	47.27-47.39	47.28-47.36	13-10pr	35-30pr
Copenhagen	8.8754-8.9056	8.8754-8.8834	2-1½pr	5¼-4¼pr
Dublin	0.9675-0.9703	0.9686-0.9698	10-7pr	26-21pr
Frankfurt	2.3006-2.3056	2.3014-2.3032	⅝-½pr	1⅝-1½pr
Lisbon	235.49-236.17	235.56-235.80	¼-⅝ds	¼-⅝ds
Madrid	191.271-191.732	191.271-191.422	26-36ds	65-82ds
Milan	2352.75-2359.72	2353.45-2355.89	6-8ds	17-19ds
Montreal	2.0544-2.0597	2.0573-2.0589	0.25-0.17pr	0.44-0.32pr
New York	1.5125-1.5150	1.5125-1.5131	0.08-0.07pr	0.21-0.18pr
Oslo	9.8846-9.9097	9.8846-9.8999	1⅛-¾pr	3⅛-2⅝pr
Paris	7.7727-7.7894	7.7727-7.7781	1⅝-1⅜pr	4⅛-4pr
Stockholm	10.193-10.222	10.196-10.215	⅛-⅛ds	⅛-⅛ds
Tokyo	161.42-161.77	161.49-161.59	⅞-⅝pr	2⅝-2⅜pr
Vienna	16.188-16.216	16.191-16.205	⅞-⅝pr	1⅞-1pr
Zurich	1.8646-1.8684	1.8646-1.8667	⅝-½pr	2-1¾pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2742-1.2750
Austria	10.70-10.71
Belgium (Com)	31.25-31.29
Canada	1.3600-1.3605
Denmark	5.8655-5.8685
France	5.1395-5.1410
Germany	1.5210-1.5215
Hong Kong	7.7353-7.7363
Ireland	1.5618-1.5638
Italy	1557.50-1558.50
Japan	106.65-106.75
Malaysia	2.4995-2.5005
Netherlands	1.7024-1.7029
Norway	6.5333-6.5408
Portugal	155.69-155.79
Singapore	1.4085-1.4095
Spain	126.40-126.45
Sweden	6.7397-6.7497
Switzerland	1.2326-1.2331

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5135-1.5159
Australia dollar	1.9286-1.9305
Bahrain dinar	0.5645-0.5765
Brazil real*	1.4800-1.4841
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7070-0.7170
Finland markka	7.2575-7.3535
Greece drachma	363.25-370.25
Hong Kong dollar	11.7035-11.7128
India rupee	51.31-52.27
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4490-0.4590
Malaysia ringgit	3.7817-3.7858
New Zealand dollar	2.2208-2.2245
Pakistan rupee	52.33 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.4500-5.5000
Singapore dollar	2.1311-2.1340
S Africa rand (com)	6.3650-6.4670
U A E dirham	5.4975-5.6215

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	1,700	Land Secs	1,900
ASDA Gp	11,000	Legal & Gn	1,100
Abbey Ntl	3,800	Lloyds TSB	5,600
Allied Dom	3,200	Marks Spr	7,300
Argos	1,300	NatWst Bk	3,300
Argyll Gp	1,300	Nat Grid	6,700
AB Foods	1,100	Nat Power	22,000
BAA	768	P & O	1,000
BAT Inds	7,100	Pearson	880
BOC	2,500	Pilkington	5,000
BP	18,000	PowerGen	3,400
BSkyB	3,100	Prudential	3,700
BTR	9,900	REXAM	409
BT	5,000	RMC	305
Bk of Scot	4,600	RTZ	5,300
Barclays	3,400	Rank Org	2,300
Bass	1,600	Reckitt Col	1,300
Blue Circle	4,600	Redland	3,300
Boots	3,200	*Reed Intl*	2,200
BAe	1,900	Rentokil	6,000
BA	5,000	Reuters	6,300
Brit Gas	9,300	Rolls Royce	7,200
Brit Steel	3,900	Royal Ins	862
Burmah Cstl	705	*Ryl Bk Scot*	2,700
Burton	11,000	Sainsbury	7,400
Cable Wire	4,300	Schroders	127
Cadbury	2,300	Scot & New	615
Carlton Cms	3,800	Scot Power	3,500
Cm-Union	400	*Svrn Trent*	1,800
Cookson	5,200	Shell Trans	4,500
Courtaulds	785	Siebe	362
Dixons	1,000	SmKl Bch	3,500
Enterpr Oil	3,200	Smith Nph	7,600
For & Col IT	771	Smiths Inds	519
GKN	349	Sthern Elec	1,400
GRE	734	Std Chartd	1,900
GUS	2,700	Sun Allnce	3,700
Gen Acc	1,500	TI Gp	196
Gen Elec	6,100	Tate & Lyle	740
Glaxo Well	6,200	Tesco	11,000
Granada	1,800	Thames W	282
Grand Met	6,600	Thrn EMI	709
Greenalls	1,900	Tomkins	2,900
Guinness	6,700	Unilever	2,300
HSBC	1,500	United Utils	730
Hanson	22,000	Vodafone	9,400
ICI	5,700	Whitbread	1,100
Kingfisher	2,100	Wlms Hld	2,400
LASMO	4,100	Wolseley	550
Ladbroke	26,000	Zeneca	2,000

WALL STREET

	Apr 24 midday	Apr 23 close
AMP Inc	44¾	43½
AMR Corp	88¼	90
ASA	44½	45
AT & T	60⅝	60⅝
Abbott Labs	40⅞	41¼
Advanced Micro	17½	17¼
Aetna Life	70⅞	71¼
Ahmanson (HF)	23¾	24¼
Air Prod & Chem	57	56¾
AirTouch Comm	29⅝	29⅞
Alberto-Culver B	37⅞	37¾
Albertson's	38⅛	38⅛
Alcan Alumnm	31¾	32¼
Alco Standard	55¾	55¼
Allied Signal	57⅞	57⅛
Alum Co of Am	62¾	63
Amax Gold Inc	6⅞	6¾
Amerada Hess	57¼	57¾
Amer Brands	41¾	42⅞
Amer El Power	40⅝	40⅞
Amer Express	46¼	47
Amer Genl Corp	34¼	34⅞
Amer Home Pr	106	107⅞
Amer Intl	92⅞	94
Amer Stores	33⅞	33¼
Amer Standard	27⅞	27⅞
Ameritech	59⅝	59⅝
Amoco	73⅛	73⅞
Anheuser-Busch	*67*	*67⅞*
Apple Computer	24⅛	24⅝
Archer Daniels	18⅞	19⅛
Armco	5⅞	5⅞
Armstrng Wrld	57⅞	57
Asarco	34⅝	34⅞
Ashland Oil	*42*	*41¾*
Atl Richfield	118⅛	118⅝
Auto Data Pro	38	38
Avery Dennison	57	56⅝
Avon Products	88⅞	89⅞
Baker Hughes	31	30⅞
Baltim Gas & El	26⅝	26¾
Banc One	34¼	34⅞
BankAmerica	72⅞	73¾
Bank of NY	47¾	47¼
Bunkers Tr NY	69	69⅞
Barnett Banks	62¾	62¾
Bausch & Lomb	39⅞	40⅛
Baxter Intl	43⅛	43⅛
Bectn Dicknsn	81½	81¼
Bell Atlantic	65⅛	66¼
Bell Industries	21½	20⅞
BellSouth	39⅞	40
Black & Decker	39⅝	40
Block (H&R)	35¾	36
Boeing	80⅞	81½
Boise Cascade	43¾	43¼
Bristol Myrs Sq	80⅞	80⅛
Browning Ferris	30⅝	30⅞
Brunswick	22½	22¾
Burlington Nthn	84⅛	84⅛
CMS Energy Corp	28	28⅛
CNA Financial	97⅞	98⅛
CPC Intl	67	68
CSX	51½	52
Campbell Soup	59⅝	59⅛
Can Pacific	19⅞	19¼
Carolina Pwr	35⅝	36¼
Caterpillar	65¾	69⅞
Central & SW	27⅛	27⅛
Champion Intl	47⅛	48
Chase Manhat	66½	67¼
Chevron Corp	58⅛	57⅞
Chrysler	63⅞	63⅞
Chubb Corp	94⅛	94⅛
Cigna Corp	111	107⅞
Citicorp	79⅛	79⅝
Clorox	79⅞	80⅛
Coastal Corp	40⅞	38½
Coca Cola	80⅝	81
Colgate-Palmolive	76¾	76⅞
Columbia Gas	49⅝	49⅞
ColumbiaHCA	52½	52¾
Compaq Comp	47½	44¾
Comp Ass Intl	74⅞	74⅞
Conagra	39⅝	39⅞
Conrail	68¾	68⅞
Cons Edison	29⅞	30⅛
Cons Nat Gas	46⅞	46⅞
Cooper Inds	42⅞	41⅞
Corestates	39⅝	39⅞
Corning Inc	34¾	34½
Crown Cork	46⅞	46⅛
Dana Corp	33⅞	33⅞
Dayton Hudson	93⅞	93
Deere	42⅞	42¼
Delta Air Lines	81	81⅞
Deluxe Corp	33⅞	33⅞
Digital Equip	62⅞	60⅞
Dillard Dept St	38⅛	38⅛
Disney (Walt)	59⅞	61¼
Dominion Res	38⅛	38
Donelley (RR)	36⅛	36⅛
Dover Corp	50⅞	49⅞
Dow Chemical	89⅞	90
Dow Jones	37½	37½
Dresser	31	31⅛
Duke Power	46⅞	46⅞
Dun & Bradstreet	60⅞	60⅞
Du Pont	84	84⅛
Eastman Chem	67⅛	67⅛
Eastman Kodak	76¼	76¼
Eaton Corp	60⅞	60
Edison Intl	15⅞	15⅞
Emerson Elec	83⅞	84⅞
Engelhard Corp	24⅛	24⅛
Enron Corp	40	39⅝
Entergy	25⅛	25⅛
Ethyl Corp	10⅞	10⅞
Exxon	84¾	84⅞
FMC Corp	69⅞	69⅞
FPL Group	42⅞	42⅞
Federal Express	78¾	75⅞
Fed Nat Mtge	30⅞	31
First Bk Sys	59⅞	60⅞
First Union Rlty	7⅛	7⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	42⅞	42⅝
Fluor Corp	64¾	64⅛
Ford Motor	35⅞	36⅞
GTE Corp	43⅞	44
Gannett	68⅞	69
Gap Inc Del	29⅞	29
Gen Dynamics	62⅞	61½
Gen Electric	79⅝	79⅞
Gen Mills	54	54⅞
Gen Motors	55¾	56⅛
Gen Reinsurance	144¼	144⅛
Gen Signal	37⅞	37⅞
Genuine Parts	44⅛	44⅛
Georgia Pac	72⅞	72⅞
Gillette	53⅞	54⅝
Glaxo Wellc ADR	27⅛	24¾
Goodrich (BF)	39⅞	40⅝
Goodyear Tire	50⅞	50⅞
Grace (W&R)	80⅞	80⅞
Grt Atl Pac Tea	34⅛	34⅞
Great Wstn Fin	23⅝	23⅝
Halliburton	57¾	57⅝
Harcourt General	43⅛	43⅞
Heinz (HJ)	33¾	34
Hercules	62½	61½
Hershey Foods	74	73¾
Hewlett Packard	106⅞	103¾
Hilton Hotels	104⅛	104⅞
Home Depot	45⅞	46⅝
Homestake Mng	19¾	19⅝
Honeywell	51½	51
Household Intl	69⅞	69⅞
Houston Inds	21⅞	21⅞
Humana	24¾	24⅛
ITT Corp	63⅛	62⅞
Illinois Tool	68⅛	67¾
Illinova	25⅞	25⅞
INCO	33¾	33⅞
Ingersoll Rand	39⅞	39⅞
Inland Steel	24¾	24⅛
Intel Corp	70⅞	68⅞
IBM	106⅛	107
Intl Flav & Fr	47⅞	47⅞
Intl Paper	39⅞	39¼
James River Va	26⅛	26⅝
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	89⅞	90⅞
Kellogg	70	70⅞
Kerr-McGee	66½	67
Kimberly-Clark	71½	71½
Kmart	10⅞	10⅞
Knight-Ridder	71	71
Lilly (Eli)	55⅞	57⅝
Limited Inc	19⅞	19
Lincoln Nat	48¾	49⅛
Litton	45⅞	45⅛
Liz Claiborne	34½	35¼
Lockheed Martin	78	76¾
Louisiana Pac	23¾	23⅞
MCI Comm	29¾	28⅛
Marriott Intl	48	47⅞
Marsh & McLnn	92⅞	91¼
Mascn Corp	27⅞	27⅞
May Dept St	49⅞	50
Maytag Corp	20	20
McDonalds	47⅛	47⅞
McDonnell D	94⅛	93⅛
McGraw Hill	89⅞	88⅞
Mead Corp	55⅞	55⅞
Medtronic	52	52⅞
Mellon Bk	54¾	54⅝
Melville Corp	40	40
Merck Inc	59⅞	61¼
Merrill Lynch	59⅛	60⅝
Microsoft	112⅞	112⅞
Minnesota Mine	64⅛	64⅞
Mobil Corp	116⅞	116
Monsanto	150⅞	150⅞
Morgan (JP)	83	82⅞
Motorola Inc	61⅛	61½
Natl Semi	15⅛	15
Natl Service *Ind*	37½	37½
Navistar Int	11¾	11
NY Times A	33	33⅞
Newmont Mng	55	55⅞
Niag Mohawk	6⅛	6⅛
Nike B	96⅞	99⅞
NL Industries	13⅞	13⅞
Noram Energy	10⅞	10⅞
Nordstrom	46⅞	46⅞
Norfolk Sthrn	83½	83
Nthn State Pwr	47	47⅞
Norwest Corp	36¾	36⅞
Nynex Corp	49⅞	49⅞
Occidental Pet	26⅛	26⅛
Ohio Edison	21⅞	20½
Oracle	34⅞	34
Oryx Energy Co	16⅝	16¾
Overseas Ship	18⅝	18⅞
Owens Corning	39⅞	39⅝
PHH Corp	56¾	56⅞
PPG Industries	51	51½
PNC Bank	30	29⅞
PP&L Res	22⅞	22⅞
Paccar Inc	49⅞	50⅞
Pacificorp	19⅞	19⅝
Pac Enterprises	25⅞	25⅛
Pac Gas & Elec	22⅝	22⅞
Pac Telesis	34⅛	34⅛
Pall Corp	27⅛	28¾
Parker Hannifin	42¾	41⅞
Peco Energy	24⅞	24⅛
Penney (JC)	48⅞	49¾
Pennzoil	43	42⅝
Pepsico	59⅞	60⅞
Pfizer	66¾	68⅞
Pharm & Upjhn	38	38⅞
Phelps Dodge	73	72¾
Philip Morris	86⅞	87⅞
Phillips Pet	40⅝	40⅞
Pitney Bowes	48⅝	49
Polaroid	45⅞	44⅞
PriceCostco	19	19⅞
Procter & Gmbl	84⅛	85
Providian	45⅝	45¾
Pub Serv E & G	26⅛	25⅞
Quaker Oats	33⅞	33
Ralston Purina	59⅞	59⅞
Raychem Corp	76	75⅛
Raytheon	49¾	49⅞
Reebok Intl	28⅛	28⅛
Reynolds Metals	55⅝	55⅝
Rockwell Intl	57⅞	56
Rohm & Haas	67	67
Royal Dutch	142⅞	143⅛
Rubbermaid	28	28
SBC Comms	50⅞	50⅝
Safeco Corp	34	34⅛
St Paul's Cos	55⅞	55⅛
Salomon Inc	41¾	41¾
Sara Lee Corp	31¾	31½
Schering Plough	54⅝	57
Schlumberger	86⅛	84
Seagram	33⅛	33⅞
Sears Roebuck	51	51½
Shell Trans	79⅞	80
Sherwin Wilms	44¾	44¾
Skyline Corp	24⅛	24⅞
Snap-On-Tools	48⅛	48⅞
Southern Co	22⅞	21¾
Sprint Corp	40⅝	40⅛
Stanley Works	62¾	62½
Sun Company	31	30⅝
Sun Microsys	54⅝	54⅝
Suntrust	70	70⅝
Supervalu	31¼	32
Sysco Corp	32⅝	32½
TRW Inc	93	93¾
TCC Inds	2¾	2⅞
Tandem Comp	11½	10⅞
Tandy Corp	51¼	50⅝
Teledyne	30⅝	30⅝
Temple Inland	47⅝	48
Tenneco	54¼	54½
Texaco	84¾	85⅝
Texas Inst	57⅞	57⅝
Texas Utilities	39⅝	39⅝
Textron	88⅞	88¾
Time Warner	40⅝	40⅞
Times-Mirror A	42¾	42⅞
Timken	41¼	41¼
Torchmark	42⅝	43
Toys R Us	27⅞	27⅞
Transamerica	76¾	76⅛
Travelers	61⅝	62⅝
Tribune	71¾	71¾
Tyco Labs	39⅝	30⅝
UST Inc	31¾	31½
UAL	213¾	214½
US Inds	21½	21⅛
USX Marathon	21	20⅝
Unicom	27⅞	27⅞
Unilever NY	138¾	138½
Union Camp	51¼	52¾
Union Carbide	47⅝	47⅝
Union Pacific	68⅝	68⅝
Unisys Corp	6¾	6½
USAIR Group	16½	17¾
USF&G Corp	16¾	16⅝
US Life	28⅛	29⅞
United Tech	112½	113½
Unocal Corp	33⅝	33⅝
VF Corp	56⅝	57
WMX Tech	30⅞	32⅝
Wal-Mart Stores	23¾	23
Warner-Lambert	112⅞	114⅝
Wells Fargo	247½	247⅞
Westinghouse El	18⅝	18⅞
Weyerhaeuser	47⅝	48⅞
Whirlpool	60	59⅞
Whitman	24¾	24⅝
Winn Dixie	33	33⅝
Woolworth	19⅝	19⅞
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	59½	58⅝
Xerox	140⅞	139⅞
Yellow Corp	12⅞	12⅝

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هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Massaging their egos

LIFE is fun at the Institute of Directors. Not only has an in-house wine bar opened at the IoD's Pall Mall headquarters, but businessmen attending yesterday's IoD conference at the Royal Albert Hall were treated to on-site massage, courtesy of Champneys. Meanwhile, the innovation of electronic voting leaves room for confusion. Asked to register their gender, 83.7 per cent of delegates declared themselves men, and 14.9 per cent said they were women. Decisively, 1.4 per cent did not know.

Hot water

EVEN the IoD's celebrated lunchbox didn't escape the heated European debate. In place of beef, conventioneers were treated to cold lamb chops, washed down with Californian Sauvignon Blanc. The French butter passed without comment, but arch-Eurosceptic Lord Tebbit, who proposed the motion against a single currency, seized on the Perrier bottles to highlight the openness of Britain's economy. "Can you imagine the French employers' organisation offering Malvern water at their annual conference?" he asked.

Tebbit: Perrier point

AFTER watching hostile bidder Rentokil make blunder after blunder in the course of its bid, BET managed one of its own yesterday. In a jumbled metaphor, John Clark, chairman of BET, sniped: "Rentokil's future balance sheet weakness surely means the kettle is trying to call the pot black."

Power failure

WE think we've cracked why Ian Lang, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and President of the Board of Trade, made the completely unexpected decision to block the power bids yesterday. In early copies of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's reports, pages 27 to 58 were not only bound upside down, but were also in the wrong order.

WAGE inflation has hit the Treasury. Unable to fill the chief executive's vacancy at the National Savings department, more than six months after the departure of David Butler, a new advertisement for the slot this week raises the salary from £80,000 to £100,000 or more "for an exceptional candidate".

Dry sugar

IT WAS a gentle amble for Alan Sugar yesterday, from his luxury yacht moored alongside Tower Bridge to his broker's office for the announcement of Tottenham Hotspur's share issue. The yacht boasts a cinema and hot air balloon. When asked if he had been for an early morning swim, Sugar sniffed: "Certainly not. I have other people to do that for me."

WILL Jack Straw jump to the defence of his baby brother, after Gordon Brown accused accountancy firms yesterday of dealing in "rumours and lies"? Edward the shadow Home Secretary's 47-year-old brother, has been a partner at Coopers & Lybrand since 1982.

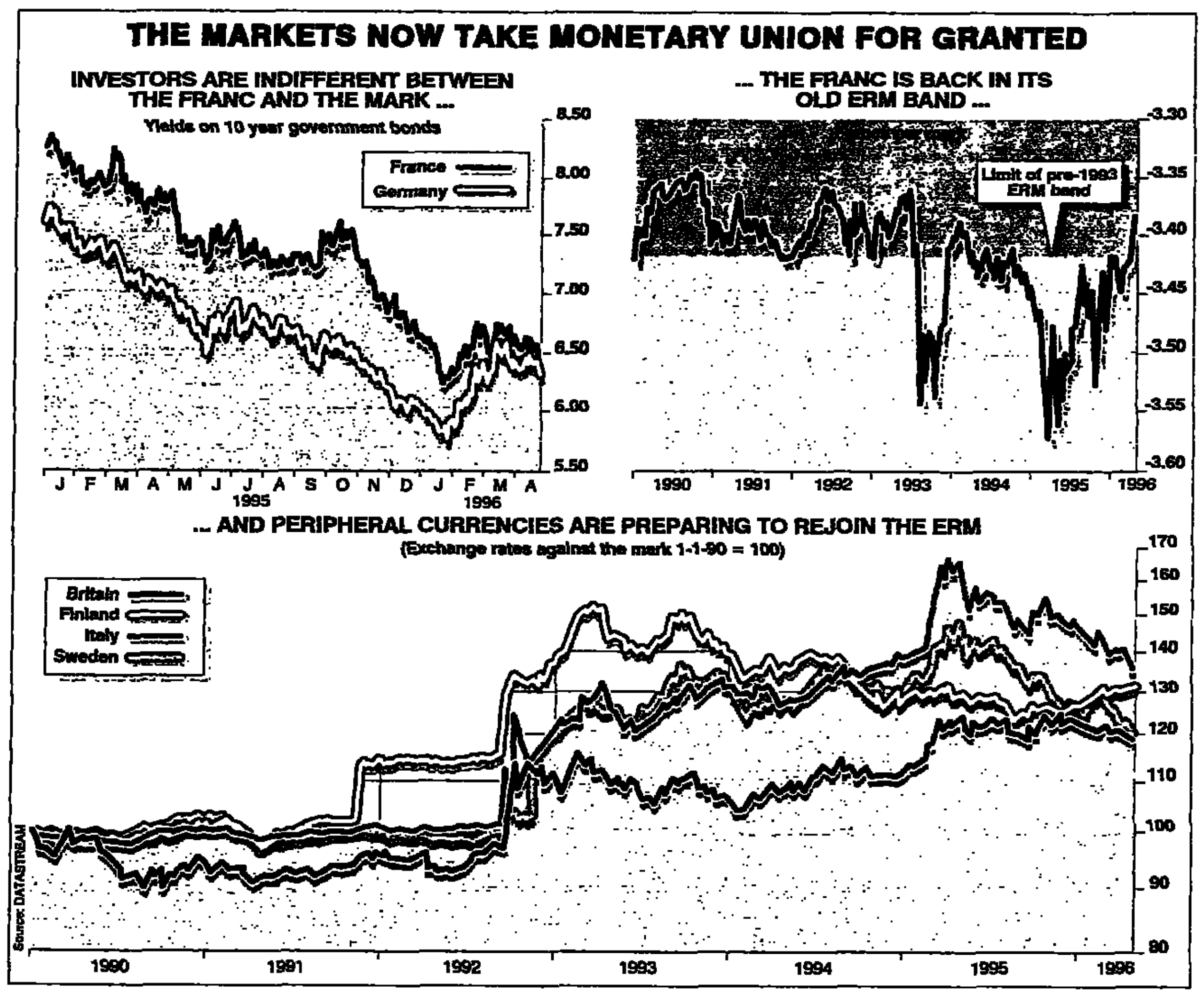
MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Shift in German mood fuels single currency momentum

Weakening of the mark in relation to flimsy franc buoys case for union



Source: DATASTREAM

In the month I spent immersed in the parochial concerns of British electoral politics and the Labour Party, momentous events have happened in the economic world, particularly in Europe. The financial markets' flirtation with European Monetary Union — whose mounting ardour I disapprovingly described in several Economic Views between Christmas and Easter — seems to have blossomed into a full-scale love affair.

The financial markets are now taking the formation of a monetary union involving Germany, France, Austria and the Benelux countries completely for granted. They are also assuming that the single currency will be created on time in January 1999.

This is evidenced by the dramatic strengthening of the French franc and the near disappearance of the usual spread between German and French bond yields. The French still do pay a tiny premium of 0.06 percentage points on their ten-year bonds, but this is fully explained by the small difference between short-term interest rates in the two countries, which investors expect to persist until EMU is consummated in 1999.

After that date there is absolutely no difference between expected interest rates in the two countries.

In effect, the world's money-managers are now saying that they are completely indifferent as between holding francs or holding marks. To be more precise they are not *saying* this, since most remain Eurosceptical and awed by the reputation of the Bundesbank. Instead they are doing something far more important. They are betting their money on a concept that their minds cannot yet quite accept — that the mighty mark will, in future, be no stronger than the flimsy franc.

In fact, according to the rates on forward bond-swaps provided by Alison Cottrell of PaineWebber International, the market is expecting French interest rates to be marginally lower than German ones by 1999 (a bizarre, but highly significant, reversal of the usual relationship first reported in this column three months ago).

One reason why the markets have embraced so totally the concept of a single currency is that political momentum for EMU is building all the time. The political event was the Baden-Wurtemberg election on March 24.

I said back in March that this one vote could do more to settle the future of Europe than any number of economic debates or White Papers. And in the event it did. The social democrats who tried to run an honest campaign against monetary union did so for the first (and probably last) time in German history. The people showed no interest whatsoever in the subject and voted in droves against the SPD. Helmut Kohl's coalition emerged triumphant and his faith in "the European construction" was reaffirmed.

More recently there has been a better publicised boost for EMU from last weekend's Italian election. The victory for Romano Prodi's "Olive Tree" coalition is important not so much because the Italian Left are more pro-European than the Right. The idea that an Italy led by Silvio Berlusconi might one day become an ally for Britain against the Franco-German juggernaut was never more than a fanatasy of the Tory Right.

Antonio Martino, the supposedly Europhobic former foreign minister in the Berlusconi Government, once remarked to me: "I am a Eurosceptic by Italian standards, which means that on the British spectrum I would be considered a moderate pro-European."

The real significance of the left-wing victory on Sunday is that Italy may now enjoy a period of stable and perhaps even responsible government. Even if this happens, Italy will *not* become a founder-member of EMU, but the chances of Italian political and financial instability undermining the entire project will be much reduced.

The reasons why Italy will certainly not join EMU in 1999 are worth considering further. For they tell us as much about the single currency, its method of implementation — and its implications for Britain — as they do about Italy.

Italy will not, of course, meet the Maastricht convergence criteria in April 1998, when the decisions are due to be made. But then, neither will Belgium, The Netherlands or France. Indeed it is quite possible that Germany will fall foul of both the key targets: a government deficit below 3 per cent of GDP and gross public debt of less than 60 per cent of GDP.

The International Monetary Fund forecast last week that, on present policies, Germany would have a deficit of 3.4 per cent and a public debt of 61.1 per cent in 1997, while France's deficit would be 3.6 per cent. And if those overshoots look moderate consider the debt forecasts for Belgium and The Netherlands: 131 per cent and 78 per cent.

> Financial markets are taking for granted the formation of a [restricted] EMU

Why are the markets so sure that a single currency will happen, even though the Maastricht targets are clearly out of reach? And why are they equally confident that a near-bankrupt country like Belgium will become a founder-member, while Italy (and Britain) will not?

The main answer lies, as ever, in German politics. The defeat of the anti-EMU campaign in Baden-Wurttemberg did not merely show that the Germans were relatively immune to populist campaigns about preserving "our mark". It also suggested something more subtle — German public opinion no longer sees EMU as a black and white issue.

First, the Germans have seen the dark side of that old Bundesbank slogan "a strong mark is a good mark". The Germans now want the mark to weaken, not only against the dollar and the yen, but also against the lira, the pound and the Swedish crown. That removes one of the main sources of friction between Germany and France, since France has always wanted the weakest currency it could have without alienating the Germans.

The second subtle point the German public has increasingly grasped is the distinction between a monetary union embracing the whole of Europe and a German-dominated hard core. Polls have shown that a monetary union involving only Germany, France, Austria and the Benelux countries enjoys 70 per cent public support. But if Italy or Spain is included in such an arrangement support immediately drops to 40 per cent or less.

One reason the Germans are becoming more relaxed about EMU is that their politicians, bankers and businessmen are quietly reassuring them that improvident Mediteraranean countries will not be allowed to join.

The Maastricht criteria leave plenty of scope to achieve this result. But the problem is that a single currency without the "Club Med" would be almost pointless. One of the main functions of EMU from the German and French standpoint is to stop their neighbours improving their competitiveness by devaluing.

This is the problem addressed by the new-style ERM demanded by France (with the usual German support). If Italy and other peripheral countries can be forced to tie their currencies to the euro and to cede control of domestic policies to the European Central Bank, then the threat of "competitive devaluations" after 1999 can be averted without allowing them to become founder-members of EMU, and thereby forfeiting German public support.

The *quid pro quo* would be a tacit understanding with Italy and the others that they would be admitted to EMU, on relatively easy terms, a few years later.

Until this week the plan for an "ERM II" was looking dicey because Italy, the main country for which the new straitjacket was designed, seemed destined to remain too unstable to join. That calculation may well have been reversed by this week's election.

The new Italian government is talking of rejoining the ERM within weeks — and if Italy does so, then Sweden and Finland, the two other holdouts, may soon follow. Britain will then be the only EU country determined to stay outside both EMU and the ERM. As usual, Britain will be in a minority of one.

Telecom giants face hitch at the altar

Eric Reguly on the German dilemma facing BT and Cable and Wireless

When Veba, Germany's fourth-largest company, learntthat Cable and Wireless and BT were in merger discussions, it sensed a once-in-a-lifetime chance to influence, and ultimately benefit from, the formation of a £35 billion global telecoms group. Veba owns 10.5 per cent of C&W, and the companies have formed two joint ventures — Vebacom and Cable and Wireless Europe — to tackle the deregulating phone market in Germany and elsewhere on the continent.

But Veba faced one potentially insurmountable obstacle. BT also had a German partner in the form of Viag, another corporate giant with grand designs on the German telecoms market. Last year, BT and Viag formed a joint venture called Viag Interkom, pledged to invest £600 million in it over five years and recruited RWE, one of Germany's largest utilities, as a partner.

Since C&W and BT had competing telecoms companies in Germany, it became clear that one of them would have to go if C&W and BT merged. Deciding which of the joint ventures is to be sacrificed has emerged as one of main obstacles to reaching a merger agreement between C&W and BT, and time is running out because they hope to make a formal merger announcement within a few weeks. One executive close to the negotiations said: "Fixing the German situation is a big issue."

> ‘ Veba lacks the clout to stop the merger, but could hinder it ’

For several months now, Veba and Viag have been putting their cases to the top executives at C&W and BT. Viag even went public with its plea. In a statement, it said: "Viag and BT wish to state that the [C&W-BT merger] discussions will not disturb the existing collaboration. The broadening of the Viag-BT alliance with RWE has precedence over any other solution."

Veba, however, has been equally adamant that its interests should not be sacrificed and, in effect, issued a threat. It made it clear that it would not support the C&W-BT merger if its demands were not met. With a 10.5 per cent stake in C&W and a seat on its board, Veba is in a more powerful negotiating position than Viag. Veba probably lacks the clout to stop the merger, but could certainly hinder it.

Veba appears to have the upper hand. Observers say that BT would be foolish to alienate a major C&W shareholder and is beginning to see the business logic of keeping the C&W European alliances in the group's portfolio. They note that Viag Interkom, its partnership with Viag, is somewhat less developed that C&W's and may have a better chance at putting a dent in Deutsche Telekom's market after deregulation in 1998.

Vebacom, the larger of C&W's two joint ventures with Veba, had sales of DM339 million last year and hopes to achieve sales of more than DM8 billion by 2003, becoming the single biggest competitor to Deutsche Telekom. Veba has invested about DM1.2 billion in Vebacom and a further DM2.2 billion for 10.5 per cent of C&W. Vebacom's portfolio of services and investments is broader than Viag Interkom's. It has a public telephony business, a corporate network service, three cable investments with 1.2 million customers and a clutch of mobile phone interests, including a 28 per cent stake in E Plus, one of Germany's fastest-growing players in the sector.

Viag Interkom has no mobile phone investments. But it does distribute international business telephony products, called Concert, developed by BT and MCI, America's second-largest long-distance phone company. Viag and RWE can also provide Viag Interkom with a nationwide network of high-capacity fibre-optic cables.

Although Veba has more influence than Viag over the outcome of the merger talks, Viag shows no signs of abandoning the fight. It argues that its relationship with BT has, if anything, become closer since the merger talks began last year and that its partnership agreement with BT is legally binding. If Viag Interkom is ditched, Viag may be able to extract a hefty payment from BT as a consolation prize.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Look at conversions to find missing VAT millions

From Mr Michael J. Flint

Sir, The Treasury's cost-cutting culture may not necessarily account for the shortfall in value-added tax receipts, as implied by Robert Bruce (Audit, April 18). Having lost the battle of Jaffa Cake, HM Customs and Excise have used their ample resources to target some other marginal areas of VAT, such as orange juice (freshly pressed juice no longer excused), hot-air balloon rides, and alterations to residential listed buildings which are deemed to be under maintenance and repair (which has become quite a tricky subject); church bells are another trouble spot.

Somewhat curious therefore, and possibly related to the shortfall, was the generous and unexpected introduction of a relief for conversions of non-residential buildings into dwellings provided that the developer granted a long lease of the converted building or sold it outright.

The forecast of VAT foregone, made when the zero-rating was introduced in July 1994 as a concession, was only £20 million. A legal order in March 1995 confirmed the terms of the relief.

Given the number of conversion projects which have been featured in property and homes pages in the *The Times*, ranging from small schemes to the large and prestigious, it is worth considering whether the forecast should be multiplied many times over to be more realistic.

As an example, I have taken the figures related to the conversion of Lavender Hill School into flats (Property feature, April 13) and estimate a total VAT refund entitlement of something between £500,000 and £700,000 on just this one medium-size scheme. Most of this will rightfully be picked up by the development company as input tax, but the eventual purchasers of the 30 bare "shell" units to be sold by the developer could be individually able to make VAT claims totalling £200,000, an estimate based on the likely cost of completing the conversion of each unit given to be between £20,000 and £50,000.

The new relief was intended to be easy to obtain and fairly simple tax planning measures can be taken by developers to fully recover VAT on the cost of converting all sorts of buildings, from old barns, churches and water towers to the largest commercial or office building, provided that the end-use is residential and that the flats or whatever are sold off. Anyone converting their own barn or anything else into a dwelling on a DIY basis can also have the VAT back, so long as they are not doing it as a business.

That's where I would look for some disappearing VAT. But as a former "gamekeeper" (a VAT inspector, whose local office closed down) about to start poaching, I would know where to look, wouldn't I?

Yours faithfully,
M. J. FLINT
(Value-added tax specialist),
16 Paynsbridge Way,
Horam,
Heathfield,
East Sussex.

Lagging behind in the UK?

From Mr Ian Roderick

Sir, In *The Times* (April 22) you carried a four-page spread on the Queen's Awards that also contained 22 advertisements from some of the companies that have won awards. Only one of these advertisements had an Internet site (URL), another one had an e-mail address, but mostly they displayed their phone numbers.

Is this a symptom that we, here in the UK, are lagging far behind the redefinition of the organisation as a set of legal and moral responsibilities attached to a World Wide Web site, or does it mean that successful companies are wisely ignoring media-induced hyperbole?

I would have been happier if a few more were at least trying out this method of disseminating information about themselves just in case.

Yours sincerely,
IAN RODERICK,
Dovetail Information Systems,
Sidelands House,
Chew Magna, Bristol.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 182nd Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at the Head Office, 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh on Tuesday 7 May 1996 at 2.30pm for the following purposes:

- To consider the Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ended 31 December 1995 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors.
- To re-elect Mr R H Davey, Mr W H Main, Dr C Masters and Mr D C Ritchie as Directors.
- To fix the remuneration of Directors.
- To re-appoint Price Waterhouse as Auditors.
- To authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors for the current year.
- To transact any other ordinary business proper to an Annual General Meeting.

Forms of Proxy for the use of Members of the Society who are unable to be present at the Meeting, but who may wish to vote, may be obtained on application to the undersigned. To be effective, Proxies must reach the Society's Head Office not less than two clear working days before the time for holding the Meeting. A proxy need not be a Member of the Society.

Questions may be submitted from Members who themselves or through their Proxy intend to be present at the Meeting. These should be in writing and lodged with the undersigned not less than four clear working days before the Meeting.

T B Houston SSC
Group Legal Adviser and Secretary
15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 3 April 1996

Bankers for Energy flotation

The July privatisation of British Energy, the nuclear power group, is to be handled by Cazenove & Co, HSBC Investment Bank, Mediobanca-Banca di Credito Finanzario, Morgan Stanley; Nikko Europe; Paribas Capital Markets; and West Merchant Bank.

They will work with Barclays de Zoete Wedd, global co-ordinator for the offer, which is expected to put a price of about £2.5 billion on the company.

S&U ahead

S&U, the financial services business, lifted pre-tax profits by 16 per cent, to £7 million, in the year to January 31, its tenth successive year of profit growth. Sales rose to £64.72 million, from £61.79 million. A 12.5p final dividend, up 31.58 per cent, makes 16p, up 28 per cent.

Pub change

Paramount, the pub company, has lost the contract to manage Wirral Taverns after the sale of the 39-pub chain by Whitbread. Paramount said that loss of the contract, worth about £125,000 last year, would have little impact on its results for the year to May 31.

Offer for Elys

Panther Securities, the quoted property company, has raised the lower tier of its cash offer for Elys (Wimbledon), the store group, by 40p a share, making the new offer worth 525p. The weighted average price for full acceptance is now 600p.

Oxford deal

Oxford Instruments, maker of scientific equipment, has bought WA Technology, of Cambridge, from its five shareholders for an undisclosed sum, after three years' collaboration.

Venture total

The first 12 venture capital trusts, replacement for business expansion schemes, have raised more than £150 million since their September launch, the Treasury said yesterday.

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Grenville Peacock, right, Bentalls chief executive, with John Ryan, the group's finance and property director

Bentalls to sell stake as profits halve

PROFITS before tax at Bentalls, the department store group, plunged 52 per cent to £1.2 million (£2.5 million) because of squeezed margins (Fraser Nelson writes).

While its turnover rose 2 per cent to £86 million, this was offset by £5 million debt repayment, £150,000 spent closing its store in Tunbridge Wells, £614,000 on refurbishing its remaining five stores and management consultancy fees. Interest repayments came to £1.7 million.

The company borrowed £25 million in 1995 to help to redevelop the Bentall Centre in Kingston upon Thames, but is now selling its 17 per cent rental interest to settle the debt. This will be done under an option arranged with Norwich Union, expected to bring in £36.5 million.

There is a final dividend of 2.25p (1.25p). Earnings were down 82 per cent to 1.74p.

EU blocks Lonrho-Gencor link over platinum price-fixing fear

By Jon Ashworth

THE European Commission *has* blocked Lonrho and Gencor from creating a new platinum giant because of fears that the company and its only rival, Anglo American, would use their stranglehold to fix prices.

Karel Van Miert, European Competition Commissioner, said the proposed link-up would have created a duopoly dominating the world markets for platinum and rhodium. He also gave a warning that any takeover bid for Lonrho by Anglo American would be opposed on similar grounds by his powerful anti-trust directorship.

Although the newly merged entity would have been based in South Africa, it came under the Commission's jurisdiction because the two parent companies have a combined turnover of more than $6.5 billion a year and more than $325 million each within the European Union.

Dieter Bock, chief executive of Lonrho, expressed surprise at the decision, but said Lonrho's platinum operations were unaffected. He was puzzled that the Commission had chosen to prevent a transaction to which European consumers had very little exposure and over which few, if any, had reservations.

Gencor, South Africa's second biggest mining house, said that it would appeal. Michael McMahon, chairman of Impala Platinum, Gencor's platinum arm, said: "The Commission has ignored evidence that this merger is based on the soundest procompetitive rationale."

Anglo American recently took an option over 18.4 per cent of Lonrho shares, effectively lifting its stake in the hotels-to-mining conglomerate to 28.5 per cent. The company is expected to inherit a similar stake in Lonrho's mining portfolio when Lonrho separates its mining and nonmining interests. Anglo American has said that it is not interested in bidding for Lonrho, but wanted access to a pan-African mining portfolio.

Mr Van Miert said the possibility of Anglo American exercising control of Lonrho had been a factor, and rejected arguments that it would create a powerful pole of competition for Anglo American. "There was a risk that Anglo American could have gained complete control of platinum production in South Africa, which represents 90 per cent of the world's platinum potential."

Lonrho and Gencor agreed in November to merge platinum operations. Impala Platinum Holdings, valued at $2 billion, would have had 28 per cent of the world market, against 35 per cent held by Anglo American Platinum Corporation (Amplats).

Tempus, page 28

Eggar confident as fuel output rises

OIL and gas production hit record levels last year, while Tim Eggar, Energy Minister, forecast that underground reserves could stretch into the middle of the next century (Christine Buckley writes).

According to Department of Trade and Industry statistics for output around Britain, oil production rose to 130 million tonnes from 127 million tonnes in 1994, while gas production increased to 75 billion cubic metres from 70 billion cubic metres.

Income from oil and gas production last year was £18 billion with gas contributing £4 billion. Investment in the industry rose 19 per cent to £4.2 billion, which is nearly a fifth of all investment made in Britain's industry. The contribution from oil to the balance of payments was estimated at £4 billion. Oil and gas accounted for about 2 per cent of gross domestic product.

Mr Eggar was upbeat about the prospects for both fuels and wrote off speculation that the UK will soon be an importer of gas. He said that forecasts pitching gas importation by 2005 were pessimistic and that with 20 years' worth of discovered fields he would be surprised if imports began so quickly.

Mr Eggar, who did not rule out a return to the oil industry after he leaves Parliament at the next election, said the production figures confounded those who had said that a decline was inevitable through the 1990s.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Helical Bar edges upwards to £9.2m

HELICAL BAR, the property developer, doubled profits from completed developments sales last year but investment property values fell and it said 1995 had been disappointing with little growth in rental levels and falling investment values.

At the end of January, Helical's net asset value per share had risen only 4p to 368p per share after a revaluation of the investment portfolio showed a deficit of £2.8 million. Pre-tax profit for the year to January 31 rose £1 million to £9.2 million including trading and development profits of £6.6 million (£3.2 million). The final dividend of 4.4p (3.75p) makes 7.3p for the year, up 12.3 per cent on last time.

Aberforth plans placing

ABERFORTH Smaller Companies Trust, which aims to invest in a portfolio of small UK-quoted companies, yesterday announced it intends to raise £74.4 million net of expenses through a proposed placing and offer for up to 75 million "C" shares at 100p per share. The placing will be around 65 million shares, with the offer making up the remainder. The offer will be open to existing investors and the public. One new warrant will be issued for every five new ordinary shares.

Trust may lift payout

INVESTORS CAPITAL TRUST hinted that dividends may be increased later this year and in 1997 when it reported results for the six months to March 31. The sister company to Ivory & Sime's flagship British Assets investment trust said the upside for the UK equity market looked "limited through the summer months". The fund aims to beat the return of the FT-SE 350 index, but its return was 7 per cent, compared with the index's 8 per cent. There is an interim dividend of 1.35p per share.

Costs hit Essex Furniture

ESSEX FURNITURE reported a sharp drop in pre-tax profits after the opening costs of ten new stores left interest payments of £61,000. Results for the 18 months to December 13, 1995 show a pre-tax profit of £1.18 million, against profits of £1.406 million in the 12 months to June 30, 1994 — month-for-month a fall of 44 per cent. However, turnover jumped to £44.3 million in the 18 months, against £17.7 million in the 12-month period. There is a final dividend of 2.10p (18-month total of 6.40p).

Epic heads for AIM

EPIC MULTIMEDIA, a specialist in developing multimedia for both the consumer and business markets, is set to join the Alternative Investment Market via a placing, with the float expected to capitalise the group at about £20 million. Epic, based in Brighton, West Sussex, was formed as a buyout in 1989, and produces interactive entertainment titles. In the nine months to February 28, Epic made losses of £1.39 million, on turnover of £2.97 million.

Marshalls to sell

MARSHALLS, the building materials and tools group, is selling its non-core engineering operations to Halco Group for £16 million. The company will use the proceeds to continue with in-fill acquisitions in the building materials industry and to finance organic growth. Marshalls said the sale will result in an exceptional profit of £2.75 million after allowing for goodwill previously written off and the costs of the transaction.

ACCOUNTANCY

An ethical badge of pride

Jack Maurice says an international vote could bind UK accountants — but there will be no complaints

At the end of March, representatives of more than 20 countries debated in Paris measures which are likely to result in enhanced ethical guidance for all qualified accountants working in industry, commerce, the public sector or education.

All the national accountancy bodies represented are members of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), membership of which carries an obligation to do everything possible to implement IFAC standards and guidelines within one's own country. The three proposals approved by the forum for submission to the IFAC Council in May would involve changes to the IFAC Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants in three areas:

☐ second and other opinions;
☐ professional fees;
☐ applicability of the code to employed accountants.

The first two submissions are intended to deal with two problems currently facing the practising profession — "opinion shopping" and "low-balling" respectively. These terms are largely self-explanatory. The additional guidance proposed is similar to that already in place for members of the UK auditing bodies.

But the third proposal would add four new sections to the code of application specifically to professional accountants employed in industry and commerce. At the moment, there is no element of the code specifically applicable to non-practising accountants. However, all professional accountants are expected to accord with part A of the code, which includes the fundamental principles: integrity, objectivity, competence, observance of professional standards and confidentiality.

The new sections deal with conflict of loyalties, support for professional colleagues, and professional competence insofar as they affect employed accountants, and presentation of information. The additional guidance, which has been under discussion by IFAC's financial management and accounting committee for more than two years, is intended to acknowledge the role of employed members and to assist them to carry out their duties to their employers in a manner consistent with professional integrity and competence, rather than to impose unrealistic burdens. Further, the code is directed at the national bodies themselves rather than at individual members. However, this particular submission should be of interest to well over 100,000 accountants in the UK.

These accountants are members of one or other of the six professional accountancy bodies which together form the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies (CCAB): the three Institutes of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, Ireland and Scotland (ICAEW, ICAI and ICAS), the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, the Chartered Institute of Public and Financial Accountants and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. CCAB represents the UK professional as a member of IFAC. This means that if the additional guidance is approved by the IFAC Council next month, all six bodies will be bound to do their best to bring in equivalent guidance for their own members. Each of the bodies has, in fact, a majority of members working *outside* practice, who will be subject to any new ethical provisions which result.

Membership of each of the six bodies is hard-won, and prized in the marketplace. The financial directors, controllers and managers who will be subject to the new provisions will, no doubt, bear any added responsibilities attaching to their membership with pride. Some of the elements in the "forum" guidance are already in the current guides of one or another of the bodies, but some have no exact parallel.

PETER TREVNOR

Jack Maurice says UK accountants are not shy about ethics

Professional accountants employed in *practice* are *subject to all the provisions* of part B of the code — like their principals. However, the preamble to the new section C is likely to state that in certain circumstances these new provisions may apply to employees in practice as well as to those in industry. They will therefore be in a unique category: professional accountants to whom both the guidance for those in practice *and* that for employed accountants will apply. The guidance of the UK bodies, like that of most national bodies, has largely neglected this category, and it will be interesting to see how many ethical inquiries to the accountancy bodies result from the new provisions.

UK accountants are not shy about making such inquiries: the Professional Ethics Department of ICAEW, for example, already handles more than 11,000 ethical inquiries a year — more than any other accountancy body in the world.

The author is head of professional ethics at ICAEW, and UK Ethics Adviser to IFAC. His book, Accounting Ethics, *was published by Pitman Publishing last month (ISBN 0273622242).*

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Big Six opt for figure-hugging

THE Big Six firms are still bashful about publishing their figures. Traditionally all the top 50 firms put together some basic figures based on a March year-end. And at the beginning of June these are published as a league table. Not this year. This week the senior partners of the Big Six firms meet for dinner to decide what to publish. Rumour has it that KPMG, having published something akin to a full report and accounts in January, is refusing to recalculate to a March year-end for league table purposes. And the other five are set to follow suit. Expect a Top 50 with six empty places at the top.

'Empty' threat

TIMING is all. This year's president's reception of the VAT Practitioners' Group coincided last week with the day when the world and its wife seemed interested only in how the Chancellor of the Exchequer's shortfall in VAT receipts had come about. John Brown, as president of the VAT Practitioners, had to explain to Valerie Strachan, the chairman of Customs and Excise, what might have happened. "I'm very sorry about the £6 billion," he started. "I'm only responsible for £175 of it. As for the rest…" Strachan was clear in her response. "All suggestions would be gratefully accepted," she told the room full of VAT practitioners. "But if you would all line up at the end of the evening and empty your pockets, we would be very grateful."

ACCA-lade

THE certified accountants have been known to go to the ends of the earth in their efforts to expand the field of accountancy training. And now they have their reward. The ACCA has won a Queen's Award for export achievement, the first time an accountancy body has done so. Mike Harvey, the ACCA president, even went so far as to claim that almost half last year's total income of £22 million came from overseas. He estimates that it represents some 200,000 marked examination scripts. Awesome.

ROBERT BRUCE

Days of the mid-size firm are numbered

FOR accounting firms other than those in the Big Six, the game is up. Last week's figures produced by *Accountancy Age* magazine show that of the Top 100 UK companies only one complete audit is still in the hands of what would be characterised as a medium-sized firm. All the rest are carried out by the elite group of the largest firms.

And if you stretch the survey to include the audits of the UK's Top 500 companies the *figures are even more pointed. Last year's* survey showed that the Big Six firms had 91.4 per cent of that market. This year's figures show that the last of the medium-sized firms are being squeezed out even more inexorably. Now 94.1 per cent of the market is in the hands of the Big Six.

In some ways this is not surprising. The trend has been moving this way for years. Companies at the largest end of the business spectrum need the widest services delivered from a depth and range of experience. And bankers also want the most blue chip of names as advisers to their biggest customers.

And so it is that KPMG has 24.6 per cent of the audit business of the UK Top 500. Coopers & Lybrand has 19.5 per cent. Price Waterhouse 18.1 per cent, Ernst & Young 15.7 per cent, Arthur Andersen, including Binder Hamlyn, 8.7 per cent and Deloitte & Touche 7.5 per cent.

The question is, what happens next? If the big firms have 94.1 per cent of their natural markets, then you are beyond the real point of saturation. The audit work of the largest companies may occasionally move from one firm to another as a result of, for example, non-executives wanting a bit of a shake-up and a tendering process. Other audits will move about as a result of mergers and takeovers. But change will be slow. There is none of the excitement of the late 1970s and early 80s when the large firms vacuumed up those large audits still languishing in long-established relationships with firms which had simply not grown with the same speed and panache as their clients.

Growth in this market has now slowed to a crawl. So the strategy looks elsewhere. Having achieved domination of the major audit market, the large firms now look to the middle market, that of SMES, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Here you are looking at the remaining heartland of the medium-sized accounting firms. These are the companies with a turnover of between roughly £3 million and £150 million.

They are family-run, owner-managed or going for rapid growth in new and more flexible markets. Traditionally they have gone for the smaller accounting forms as their auditors and advisers because in the beginning they neither needed nor could afford the largest firms. They wanted a greater level of advice. They felt they wanted the most elusive of advisory services — accessible partner-level time. The smaller and medium-sized accounting firms have provided all that and have found that, shorn *of the largest audit clients in the land, this* was their true market. It is also their only large market.

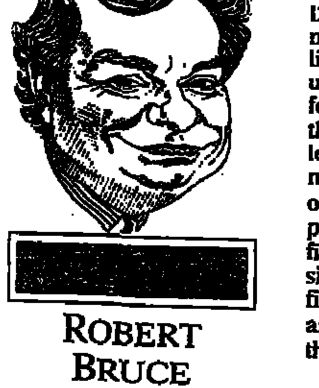
Not surprisingly, the internal strategy documents produced by medium-sized firms talk of this being the natural heartland. Owner-managers talk easily with partners. The size of both the enterprise and the audit firm is similar. Each can identify with the other. The word "synergy" appears like a rash across the pages of strategy.

But now this same sector of the market has started to appear as a very serious part of the strategy documents of the Big Six firms. The battle lines are being drawn. Estimates suggest that the market consists of around 12,000 companies with business worth about £500 million. Any company with upwards of a £10,000 audit fee or prospects that suggest they could soon be in that league is seen as a possible new client. The market share of the Big Six is already pretty extensive. But no one firm has yet carved out a sizeable advantage. The firms see another bonanza around the corner, if only they can get it right.

And that is going to be the hardest part. It is not a question of bolt-on skills. It is a question of having a much more commercial approach to the nature of the advice needed. And the market is still wary of the largest firms. All the surveys and the anecdotal evidence suggests that smaller companies see the Big Six firms as being bureaucratic and hugely expensive.

It is also assumed that partners are as rare as hen's teeth when it comes to effective, personal and focused advisory time. Smaller companies also tend to perceive the partners in the largest firms as being more involved in arguments over regulatory and attest issues than simple and effective commercial advice.

For the medium-sized accounting firms, these are comforting perceptions. But the Big Six are starting to throw resource at this market. Over the next few years, we will see a change in the market. Only a few medium-sized firms will survive. And steadily the percentage of the market that the largest firms possess will grow.



ROBERT BRUCE

هكذا من الأول

THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 25

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Helical Bar edges upwards to £9.2m

Aberforth plans placing

Trust may lift payout

Costs hit Essex Furniture

Epic heads for AIM

Marshalls to sell

of the mid-size
are numbered

هدا من الاصل

Losses extended

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	480	Allied Domecq	510	+ 8	5.8	18.5
625	500	Bulmer (HP)	622		2.5	19.5
131	115	Burn Stewart	119		5.3	25.7
464	411	Grand Met	441½	- 6½	4.7	19.0
493	435	Guinness	475½	+ 3½	3.9	15.5
387	315	Highland Dist	365		2.8	16.9
195	150	Macallan-Glen	171		1.1	35.1
720	615	Macdn Mrtn A	620		2.3	17.8
767	655	Matthew Clark	765		3.6	
118	93	Merrydown	115		2.2	
2612½	1912½	SA Breweries	2152½		1.5	22.3

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3421½	2743½	ABN-AMRO	3375	+ 12½	4.1	11.5
563	529	Abbey Natl	563	- 6	4.8	10.8
385	327	Allied Irish	346	- 5	5.0	10.1
336	289	Aus New Z	373		5.3	
5243½	3843½	Bank America	4862½	- 93½		
316	238½	Bank Scotland	291	- 8	3.5	11.7
819	683	Barclays	733	- 6	4.4	9.7
488	422	Bk of Ireland	474	+ 1	3.6	9.5
482	424	Cater Allen	441		8.5	7.3
5368½	4031½	Citicorp	5268½	+ 43½		
392	318	Close Bros	378	+ 3	3.0	16.8
£157½	£142½	Commerzbk	£145½	- 4½	3.6	
1340½	1171	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1334½	- 18½	0.4	
3412½	2978½	Deutsche Bk	3225	- 16½	2.2	
796½	593½	Espirito Santo	773½		4.6	10.4
1507	1265½	Fuji Bank Y	1406½	+ 12½	0.4	
473	398	Gerrard Nat	358	- 2	7.1	12.9
252	196	Hambros	248		3.8	
1125	943	HSBC	998½	+ 1½	4.0	10.6
1099	930	HSBC HK	990	+ 3	4.0	10.5
421	385	Irish Perm	393		3.2	
165	143	King Shaxson	156	+ 1	7.2	12.1
453	448	Leopold J	450		5.2	15.5
347½	294½	Lloyds TSB	319½	- 1½	3.1	14.1
643	576	Nat Aust Bk	592		7.3	7.6
711	608	Nat Westt	624	- 5	5.1	6.7
66	58	Rea Brothers	58		2.2	27.5
596	483	Ryl Bk Scot	510	- 5	4.0	11.6
1290	1185	Schroders	1229	- ½	1.6	17.1
1178	830	Schroders N/V	978	- 1	2.0	13.7
113	99½	Singer & Fried	105		4.9	8.2
662½	547	Stand Chartt	615	- 1	2.2	13.4
105	85½	Union	101	- 1	3.7	
£174½	£131½	Wells Fargo	£162½	- 13½	2.1	
324½	264	Westpac	324½	+ 1½	4.5	
305	268	Wintrust	300		4.9	17.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
50	38	Aberdn Stk H	38			8.3
368	363	Ascot Hldgs	355			0.7
797½	702	Bass	786	- 1	3.6	18.1
70	45	Bt for the Bar	46		4.5	12.0
172	166	Burtonwd Brw	166		4.5	16.1
123	92	City Centre Rest	119½	- 2½	2.4	
552	463	Compass Gp	551	- 1	1.7	24.3
263	190	Eldridge P	252	+ 2	2.3	23.2
498	413	Fuller Sm A	489	+ 4	2.3	19.3
619	551	Greenalls Grp	616		2.3	16.7
688	604	Greene King	659	+ 8	2.6	15.9
278	224	Grosvenor Inns	233		3.0	24.8
254	204	Groupe Chez Gerr	224		1.4	22.1
357	300	Hardy Hanson	313		4.0	11.7
230	156	Heavitree	210		3.5	12.7
3475	3095	Holt J	3400		2.0	18.2
343	313	Mansfield	343		3.0	17.2
348	307	Marston Thmp	347		2.6	16.3
669	535	Morland	609	+ 6	2.2	18.7
147	118	My Kinda Town	145		2.6	14.3
6½	5	Paramount	5½	- ½	5.2	8.4
142½	123	Pelican Gp	141	+ 1	1.5	23.7
348	217	PizzaExpress	346		0.8	35.8
330	245	Ramsdens (H)	325	- 4	1.9	34.1
1030	658	Regent Inns	1005		1.0	31.5
697½	601	Scott & New	683		3.4	18.4
258	205	Tom Cobleigh	220	- 1	1.5	35.7

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
536	476	Brammer	536		3.3	
22	15	Bucknd Gp	22	+ 1	1.1	
101	76	Bus Hdgs	100		4.5	
290	245	Caffyns	285		5.0	19.7
14½	10½	Caterpillar	13½		2.6	
78	65½	Central Mtr	77		0.9	
95	78	Charles Sidney	95		4.9	14.9
61	54½	Cook (DC)	58		3.7	8.5
384½	287	Cowie	383	- 1	3.4	14.4
171	132½	Dag Motors	170		5.7	
163	125½	Desmonte D	163		2.0	14.7
434	385	Diploma	418	- 2	4.3	13.6
403	328	Electrocomponts	397	+ 1	1.8	26.8
314	271	Eurodis Elec	288	+ 1	1.9	20.7
132	65	Eurodollar	132		7.4	7.9
105	78	European Mtr	95	+ 5	6.8	8.2
353	286	Evans Halshaw	354		5.8	12.8
67	57	Fife Indmar	63		6.5	
308	240	Finelist Grp	308		2.3	18.1
79	16½	Gardiner	79		3.7	11.6
64½	37½	Glenchewton	57	- ½	2.0	41.9
86	84	Gowrings	87		4.0	
250	216	Harris (Philip)	250		3.7	15.9
263	200½	Headlam	262		2.3	
656	497	Henlys	656	+ 2	2.3	19.2
155	132	Holders Tech	150		5.0	28.5
185	153	ISA Intl	173		1.7	
316	231	Inchcape	310		3.7	
60	33	Jacks (Wm)	51		4.4	
233	168	Kwik-Fit	223	+ 2	2.8	15.7
360	299	Lex Service	360	+ 2	5.2	13.1
147½	119	Lookers	134		7.4	7.8
17	10½	Malaya Grp	13		6.3	13.4
9½	7½	Middlesex	8½		0.8	18.9
47	31	Midsales	41			
547	440	Norbain	547	+ 2	1.7	18.6
304	232	Northamber	296	- 4	0.8	23.8
162	135	PCT	135	- 10	7.4	
314	272	Pendragon	314	+ 1	3.6	15.9
209	149	Perry Gp	208		4.9	
729	603	Premier Farnell	728	+ 5	1.9	
163	135	Quicks Group	163		4.8	
246	185	REA	243	1	2.1	
3	2	Reece	2			
61	39	Ronson	49	+ 1	3.3	
3½	2	Ross Gp	2½			
55	49	SGP Intl	51½		3.9	12.0
19½	12	Saluq	18½	½	0.7	
300	246	Time Products	300		3.9	17.5
41	30	Tower Hire	35		4.6	18.4
308	268	Vardy (Reg)	308		2.4	17.1
413	325	Wholesale Ftgs	408		3.7	21.7
59	31½	Wilshaw	41½	+ 2½	2.4	9.9
118	78	Wyko	118		1.9	
125	104	Young (H)	113		4.3	13.2

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
0½	0½	Anglo Utd	0½			
388	288	Antofagasta	345		1.9	11.5
1018	896	Broken Hill	1018		2.5	21.8
340	313	BTR	318½	- 2½	5.8	13.1
586	477	BAT	511		5.9	10.8
216	181	Berisford Intl	215	+ 1½	1.7	10.9
125	111	Bibby (J)	122		5.9	9.8
63½	50½	Brierley Inv	62½	- 1	7.5	3.2
923	817	Charter	934	+ 1	3.7	13.8
328	282	Cookson	330	+ 2	3.1	16.8
173	141	Cosalt	167	+ 1	7.0	10.3
256	204	DCC	243		3.4	10.7
140	120	Grampian Hdg	137	- 1	5.7	14.8
220	179	Hanson	198	- ½	7.6	9.9
172½	141½	Harrsn Crsfld	146	+ 4	7.7	15.5
439½	379½	Hutch Whamp	407	- ½	2.0	21.3
563½	441½	Jardine Math	517½	+ 2½	3.2	
217½	174½	Lonrho	197½	- ½	3.0	22.2
179	164	McLeod Russel	179	+ 2	4.5	16.1
476	403	Powell Duffryn	434	- 6	7.2	17.8
146	132	Rosman	136		7.6	
174	155	Sime Darby	173	+ 2	2.8	15.4
220	192½	Steeley	220	+ 4	4.8	15.0
173	156	Suter	169		7.2	
334	268	TI Group	334		2.4	17.1
294½	251	Tomkins	262	- 1	4.3	14.4
50½	27½	Trafalgar H	50			
295	250	Unitare	260		8.4	9.0
445	365	Waste Storm	444		5.2	19.8

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
256	200	[illegible]	245		4.2	15.2
18	14½	Quadrant Grp	16		2.0	44.7
65	62	Radiant Metal	65			
68	53	Ransomes	66½			18.5
82½	55½	Record	82	+ 1	5.7	15.0
277	231	Renold	270		7.4	15.8
38	31	Richards Group	31		9.1	9.2
88	78	Richardson Westt	78		5.8	
242½	187	Rolls-Royce	241	+ 2½	2.6	28.8
218	171	Rotork	218	+ 2	3.1	
185	160	Rubicon	184		3.7	18.3
1566½	1187½	SKF 'B'	1521½	- 12½	3.4	
108	92½	Senior Eng	108		4.3	19.9
245	166	Seville-Rsnl	235	- 2	1.7	23.3
897	750	Siebe	863	- 8	1.8	23.9
84	70	Simon Eng	79		1.0	29.9
278	150	Six Hundred	278	+ 7	1.0	19.9
721	622	Smiths Ind	708		2.7	20.9
732	583	Spirax-Sarco	730	- 2	2.3	21.6
314	297	Sterling Ind	313		3.1	15.2
545	456	TH	533	- 2	2.9	20.6
99	94	Tinsley (E)	94		7.5	13.8
108	78	Transtec	107	+ 1	2.6	
180	140	Triplex Lloyd	174		5.0	12.9
151	137	Unicorn Intl	151		4.6	
16½	14½	Utd Inds	16		3.6	
14	10½	Versa	13½			
302	249	Vickers	249	- 4	3.4	16.2
14	12	Villers Grp	12½			
770	707	Vitec	755		1.8	14.3
862	815	Vosper Thorny	826		3.4	15.1
436	388	Wagon Ind	424	+ 3	5.6	12.2
271	217	Weir	257	- 4	3.5	16.0
256	228	Wellington Hdg	256		3.6	
53	42	Wellman	51	+ 2½	3.9	11.6
425	363	Whessoe	405		3.6	17.2
122	73	Wolseley	78		5.5	9.1

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
148	109	Adwest	147	+ 1	6.6	42.0
275	265	Airflow Stream	275	+ 5	3.6	6.4
618	473	Avon Rubber	608	- 1	3.6	14.8
81½	57½	BSG	80½		5.1	
325	273	Bostrom	325		7.6	
29	19½	Boustead	21		6.0	
252	175	ERF	240		2.3	14.1
460	431	First Tech	441	- 1	2.1	15.7
997	778	GKN	981	+ 2	3.1	17.9
3800	3112½	General Mtr	3712½	+ 18½	2.8	
1491½	1312½	Honda Motor	1485½	+ 28	0.6	
483	386	Laird	480	+ 5	3.1	
445	425	Lookers	445		0.3	
238	172	Lucas	234	+ 4	3.9	29.7
115½	91	Mayflower	113½	+ 1	2.2	45.0
178	145	Sylone	169	+ 1	3.5	13.9
187	152	T & N	180	+ 1	4.2	11.5
431	351	Unity Hdgs	431	+ 2	2.7	20.1

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
429	365	AB Food	407	- 7	2.7	14.5
284	253	Acatos & Hutch	254		4.4	20.8
53	43½	Albert Fisher	52		9.3	12.5
290	275	Banks (S C)	286		4.6	10.8
335	315	Barr (AG)	325		3.2	21.2

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
148	139	Ivy Cap	139	+ 1	4.8	24.4
125	101	Int Biotech	125	+ 1	1.0	
45	33	Int Wts	38	+ 1		
100	98	Intl C	100			
114	90½	INVESCO Asia	111			
64	59	INVESCO Blue	64		16.4	7.2
174	135	INVESCO Eng Int	173	+ 1	0.7	
137	122	INVESCO Korea	135	+ 2		
63½	52½	INVESCO Tokyo	61½	- ½		
95½	69	J Fry 2nd U	91½	- 4	9.3	11.4
79	68	J Fry Euro U	76	- 1	7.3	13.9
251	224	JF Fledg Jap	245½	+ 2½		
88	74	Jupiter Ex Inc	82		11.9	9.0

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
307	139	Euro Disney	204	+ 2		
183	148	Euro Leisure	149	- 12		4.1
16	13½	Fammabad	14			
79	62	First Choice	72		7.1	
398	347	First Leisure	395		2.4	23.0
190	142	Friendly Hotels	185		3.9	
841	619	Granada	840	+ 4	1.7	20.3
34	25	Hi-Tec Sports	29½	- ½	5.4	
198	148	Hornby	192			
543	423	Hazelock	527	- 1	2.1	20.4
258½	201	Jurys Hotel	252½	- ½	3.1	16.1
30½	23½	Kunick	29		2.6	24.4
206	143	Ladbroke	205½	+ 9	3.6	33.3

29 APRIL.
REGISTRATION
DEADLINE FOR
INCENTIVES

RAILTRACK
Share Offer

REGISTER AT A SHARE SHOP

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND APPROVED BY SBC WARBURG, A DIVISION OF SWISS BANK CORPORATION, REGULATED IN THE UK BY SFA. THE VALUE OF SHARES CAN FLUCTUATE. ANY APPLICATION FOR SHARES SHOULD BE BASED ON THE PROSPECTUS ALONE. FOR ADVICE CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL ADVISER.

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
7	4	Jupiter Ex IncW	5	+ 1		
83	70	Jupiter Grd Cap	75		13.0	9.6
28	24½	Jupiter Grd Pld	28			
128	108	Jupiter Intl Grn	114		4.1	
282	252	Klnwt Chd	281		2.4	49.6
130	114	Klnwt E Mkr	122			
150	133	Klnwt End	143	- 2		
92	80	Klnwt Euro Pvt	91½	+ ½	3.1	40.5
29½	19½	Klnwt Euro Wts	25½	+ ½		
84	74	Klnwt H Inc	83	+ 1	13.0	9.0
298	274	Klnwt O'seas	294	- ½	1.5	78.3
169	136	Klnwt Smlr	169	+ 1	2.4	50.0
597	524	Korea—Euro	586½	+ 8½	0.1	

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
550	425	London Clubs	539	- 1	3.2	19.3
351½	188	Man Utd	316		1.9	10.2
92	77½	Mandarin Orntl	92	+ 2½	4.0	19.4
117	89	Northern	116	+ 1	4.4	12.9
141	114	Prism Leisure	136	+ 1	5.0	8.8
36	29	Queensborough	31			
32	17½	Queens Moat	29½			
547	442	Rank Org	538		3.1	15.0
42½	31	Ryan Hotels IE	41½	+ 1½	4.8	
1390	930	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1348		1.3	53.6
200	175	Sinclair (Wm)	200	+ 2	4.8	12.9
115	80	Stakis	112	- 1	2.0	23.6
471	335	Stanley Leisure	471	+ 2	1.6	24.6

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
26	23	M&G Rec Inc	24½	+ ½	20.9	
140	133	M&G Rec Pacga	136		3.7	
92	88½	M&G Rec Zero Div	91½			
142	114	M Currie Euro	142		0.3	
112	98	M Currie Japan	109			
165½	143	M Currie Pac	165½	+ 1½	0.7	
238	222	Majedie	238		3.0	36.6
46	40	Masala	40			
290	271	Merchants	286	+ 1	5.4	
100	91	Mercury Euro Pr	100	+ ½	1.7	68.7
30	22½	Mercury Eur Wt	28½			
109½	92	Mercury World	105	- 1	1.2	79.4
31	16½	Mercury Wld Wts	25½			
615	571	Monks Inv Tst	609	- 2	1.8	56.4
169½	151	Morg Gren Inc	169½	+ 1	3.7	28.6
69	53	Morg Wts	69			

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
325	273	Barbour Index	325	+ 5	3.5	48.9
9	5½	Bioclale	6½			
340	325	Black (A&C)	340		5.3	12.9
297	238	Blenheim Gp	297	+ 1	4.5	14.9
318	248	Border TV	278		1.9	23.0
382	355	Bristol	374	+ 3	4.4	19.3
476	376	BSkyB	472	+ 3	1.3	43.3
188	133	CIA Gp	186		0.9	
28½	19½	Caledonian Med	21½			
675	533	Capital Radio	665	+ 13	1.9	
487	379½	Carlton Comm	455	+ 1	2.6	16.3
480	363	Chrysalis	480		0.7	
83	75	City of Lon	76	+ 1	8.2	9.7
138	90	Cordiant	138	+ 3		
1725	1300	Daily Mail	1708½	+ 118½	1.3	41.5
1640½	1168½	Daily Mail 'A'	1621½	+ 121½	1.4	

OTHER FINANCIAL

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
143	106	Aberdeen Tst	120		2.6	23.6
107	77	BWD	106		5.9	12.8
40	34½	Berry Bch Nbl	35		9.3	9.9
320	252	Brokec Inv	297	+ 4		
184	151	Brown Dolphin	181		4.8	12.7
787	700	Caledonia	785		2.7	24.3
2300	1993½	Carrolite	2025		2.3	18.6
263	213	Cattles	264½		3.3	18.8
37	18	Choice	37	+ 1		
125	98	EFT Group	121		2.2	14.4
720	658	EFM	718		4.4	17.5
118	91	Exco	102		11.7	11.6
274	240	Gartmore	249		0.9	21.0

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1203	1075	Henderson Ad	1100		5.1	20.2
236	226	Invesco	249	- 1	2.3	
44	41	Investment Co	45		6.6	13.2
241	228	Ivory Sime	240		4.0	17.8
230½	196	Jardine Strat	211½	+ 2½	4.5	
160	58	Johnson Fry	139		2.6	
325	218	Lon Forfaiting	265	+ 3	4.8	13.6
254	216	London Pacific	253	+ 1	7.6	
117	87½	Lon Scot Bk	107		2.9	22.3
161	139	Man ED & F	159		7.5	8.1
1254	1157	M & G	1225	+ 5	3.3	24.1
470	304	MAM	430		3.1	19.1
172½	113½	MAI 5½% Cv Pf	163		4.5	
978	841	MMI	891	- 7	3.9	19.6
109	94	Nat Home Loan	98½		1.3	24.3
2255	1830	Perpetual	2213		2.3	23.4
956	750	Provident	956	+ 5	3.7	19.1
336	310	Rathbone Bort	310		4.0	
56½	37½	Retland Tst	56½	- ½	2.7	21.2
401	290	S & U	401	+ 20	5.1	
121	100	SIP Capital	115		3.3	21.7
607	499½	Swire Pacific	529½	- ½	2.3	20.7
43	33	Trinity Law	35		3.6	
376	328	Transatlantic	376	+ 1	4.8	21.4
8	5	Two Hdgs	7½	- ½		

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2925	1660	Brit Biotech	2760	+ 70		
670	340	Cantab Pharms	636			
692	473½	Celltech	588	- 10		
329	224	Chiroscience	282½	- 6½		
388	166	Cortecs	388	+ 12		
968	781	Glaxo Wellcome	790	- 5	4.7	16.0
286	203	Medeva	233	- 7	2.2	13.8
230	198	Peptide Thera	220	+ 3		
738	524	Scotia	713	- 2		
223	183	Shire Pharms	206	- 1		
736½	628½	SmithKline	698½	+ 1½	2.6	19.3
1408	1216	Zeneca	1390		2.8	22.4

PRINTING & PAPER

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
150	130	AG Holdings	150		4.9	12.4
635	547	API	635		2.0	23.2
140	91	App Holo	139			
212	164	Arjo Wiggins	180	- 1	4.9	38.1
295	219	Aspen Comms	273		2.9	
397	365½	Bemrose	391	+ 3	4.6	
173	138	Blagden	173		1.2	22.5
2725	2158½	Bowater Inc	2537½	- 46½		
564	419	Bowater Ind	562	- 6	1.2	
766	645	Br Polythene	765		2.7	15.9
38	16	Br Thornton	35		3.6	11.9
162	150	Britton Grp	162		2.3	14.7
231	191	Bunzl	230	+ 1	3.2	14.9
210	173	Capital Inds	195		3.4	12.5
307	294	Cropper (James)	287		1.6	19.1
755	651	De La Rue	737	+ 9	3.9	15.5
95	64	Delyn Group	84		2.6	12.2
166	131	Dolphin Pack	166		4.0	
95½	86	Fairway Group	88	+ 2	5.5	15.1
235	190	Ferguson Intl	229		2.2	10.1
275	231	Filofax	245	+ 7	1.5	16.9
177	130	Inveresk	144		5.0	
310	275	Jarvis Porter	304		2.6	16.2
570	459	Low & Bonar	561	- 7	2.9	15.6
105	66	MY Holdings	105		2.5	20.3
237	215	Macfarlane	237	+ 1	2.1	
134	120	Nobo Gp	127		6.1	9.9
367	324	Photobition	354	+ 6	2.2	23.9
183	162	Plysu	179	- 2½	4.9	19.2
41	37	Porter Chadbn	38			12.9
410	352	Rexam	400	- 3	4.4	16.1
476	436	St Ives Gp	468	- 1	2.4	16.9
1047½	720½	Saatchi	861	- 12½	0.5	
8	7	Seel	7			
149	110	Sellar	120	+ 8	11.5	
314	254	Smith David	311		2.7	10.5
180	147	Smurfit (Jeff)	173		3.0	

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
496	358	Lloyds Chem	471		2.8	17.9
186	149½	LIF	184		2.9	27.5
463	416½	Marks Spencer	452½	- 2½	2.9	19.6
635	525	Menzies (John)	588	- 4	2.8	14.8
20	15	Merchant Retail	18			12.6
950	615	Moss Bros	935		2.5	
582½	420	Next	536	- 4	2.8	23.4
63	50	Owen (G)	52	+ 2		
505	380	Oliver	505	+ 5	2.8	20.2
75	65	Partridge Fine	72½	+ 1½	5.0	12.2
56	37	QS Hldgs	44	- 1	4.4	
16	9½	Rhino Grp	14½			
235	191	Rosebys	227		3.1	18.4
105	94	Sears	99½	- 1	5.1	
34	14½	Signet Group	29½			
498	399	Smith WH	497	- 2	3.9	28.9
1010	830	Sotheby's	993	- 2	1.9	
362	281	Storehouse	354½	- 2	2.3	21.9
120	90	Stylo	110		5.5	
212	161	T & S Stores	211		4.2	12.5
171	165	Tie Rack	165		2.1	
3½	½	Upton & Sth	3½			
588	542	Vendome	597	- 6	2.1	21.3
19	12	WEW Group	19	+ 1	2.3	
141	120	Watches	139	- 1	1.9	
84	52	Wild al Leather	75	+ 1	2.7	
222	198	Winwale	216		3.1	

SUPPORT SERVICES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1165	953	ADT	1093	- 7		
135	100	Alpha Airpts	131		4.8	
38	27	Alphameric	34		0.9	25.5
44	35	Auto Sec	39			
213	173	BET Ord	204	- 1½	2.6	20.4
158	139	BBA Rest	156		5.1	
363	283	BPPI	363	+ 9	4.0	
184	155	BSM	178		4.8	12.8
1430	1015	BTG	1365	- 3	0.4	
1350	950	Bodycote	1157½			
107	89	Br Bloodstock	102			32.9
164	123	Bud Data Mgt	163		4.1	23.6
95	50	Books Services	94		4.0	
410	372	Business Post	381		2.3	25.5
563	329	CMG	540	- 2	1.1	
145	111½	CRT Grp	145	+ 5	3.3	22.3
259½	187	Card Gp	225	+ 1		
358	295	Capita Group	353	- 1	1.4	
21	15	Cardinal Bus	18			
10½	7½	Chemex	8½		2.3	14.8
391½	317	Christie Sec	381	+ 6	2.5	20.2
146	92	Corp Services	138	- 1	3.2	13.8
56	46	Coufie Cnsig	52		4.8	
107	73	DCS Gp	99		1.9	15.4
263	214	Davis Service	260		4.6	13.5
405	387	Delphi	405	+ 3	1.4	15.8
142	96	Dudley Jenkins	129		3.1	21.2
71	58	E&I Fast	71	+ 5	1.3	9.7
416	79	El Data Pro	95	+ 8	2.8	12.6
445	362	Hays	445	+ 4	2.1	21.8
250	210	Hogg Robinson	250	+ 3	4.0	15.3
2078½	1434½	ISS B Dkr	1961½	- 3½	1.3	13.3
492	360	JBA Hldgs	492	- 5	1.0	
282	256	Johnson Cleant	259		5.2	12.2
126	103	Kalamazoo	110		4.4	11.0
473	351	Kewill Sys	473	+ 5	1.8	16.7
347	123	LBMS	153	+ 5		
18	13	Laser Scan	18			
106	90	Leigh	106	+ 5	7.8	12.5
567	452	Logica	555	- 2	1.5	25.6
85½	30½	MDIS	85		1.6	18.6
354	246	MITIE Group	354		2.2	21.7
101	66	MR Group	90	+ 2	3.8	
423	338	Mowlem 4f	430		6.6	11.6
2268½	1569½	Manpower	2240½	+ 34½	0.4	
1340	553	Micro Focus	1045	- 20		
192	177	Michigans	178		5.3	12.1
785	570	Misys	783		1.6	26.0
359	306	MITIE Go	352	- 2	1.2	25.7
35	32	Nero Group	32		4.7	10.3
50	30	Ocbs	44		1.8	21.4
167	129	P & P	167	+ 5	2.4	15.0
235	168	Page (Michael)	235		2.2	
345	173	Parity	240	- 3	1.3	
250	200	Pegasus	250	+ 10	3.0	
88	60	Pennon	83		1.5	48.4

BRITISH FUNDS

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
108	100	Treas 15¼% 1996	100 †	-	15.22	5.77
102	100	Exch 13¼% 1996	100		13.19	5.26
217	215	Treas 2% 1996	217	+	0.92	5.87
103	102	Conv 10% 1996	102		9.78	5.95
101	100	Treas 7% 1997	100¼		6.95	6.38
107	105	Treas 13¼% 1997	105		12.60	6.11
104	103	Exch 10½% 1997	103		10.15	6.08
104	102	Treas 8¾% 1997	102		8.50	6.43
114	111	Exch 15% 1997	112 †		13.39	6.52
106	104	Exch 9¾% 1998	104		9.29	6.65
102	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.19	6.75
100	99	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	99 xd	+	6.78	6.80
115	113	Treas 14% 1998-01	113	...	12.33	6.86
122	118	Treas 15½% 1998	118	+	13.05	6.93
114	111	Exch 12% 1998	111	+	10.76	7.03
108	105	Treas 9½% 1999	105	+	8.97	7.05
116	112	Exch 12¼% 1999	113	+	10.82	7.13
112	108	Treas 10½% 1999	109		9.63	7.18
98	95	Treas 6% 1999	96		6.21	7.19
112	108	Conv 10¼% 1999	109	-	9.40	7.30
108	104	Conv 9% 2000	105	-	8.54	7.35
105	101	Treas 8% 2000	102	-	7.83	7.42
124	119	Treas 13% 2000	119	-	10.86	7.46
114	109	Treas 10% 2001	109	-	9.11	7.54
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
101	96	Treas 7% 2001	97	-	7.19	7.60
114	108	Treas 9¾% 2002	109	-	8.88	7.77
105	99	Treas 8% 2003	101	-	7.92	7.81
117	110	Treas 10% 2003	111	-	8.95	7.87
119	114	Treas 11½% 2001-04	115	-	9.97	7.80
83	78	Fund 3½% 1999-04	80	-	4.38	6.71
114	108	Conv 9½% 2004	109 †	-	8.70	7.98
98	91	Treas 6¾% 2004	92	-	7.30	7.97
108	101	Treas 8½% 2005	103	-	8.23	7.99
114	108	Conv 9½% 2005	108	-	8.80	8.00
131	124	Treas 12½% 2003-05	125	-	9.99	8.00
101	94	Treas 7½% 2006	96	-	7.79	8.03
103	96	Treas 7¾% 2006	97	-	7.93	8.06
104	97	Treas 8% 2002-06	99	-	8.02	8.08
125	118	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	119	-	9.82	7.95
108	101	Treas 8½% 2007	102	-	8.26	8.10
138	130	Treas 13½% 2004-08	131	-	10.24	7.99
112	105	Treas 9% 2008	106	-	8.43	8.12
104	96	Treas 8% 2009	98	-	8.10	8.15
LONGS (over 15 years)						
88	81	Treas 6¼% 2010	83	-	7.48	8.20
112	104	Conv 9% 2011	106	-	8.43	8.21
113	104	Treas 9% 2012	106	-	8.43	8.23
82	76	Treas 5½% 2008-12	77	-	7.09	7.89
103	95	Treas 8% 2013	97	-	8.19	8.24
101	93	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	95	-	8.10	8.25
103	95	Treas 8% 2015	97	-	8.19	8.23
111	102	Treas 8¾% 2017	104	-	8.38	8.27
141	130	Exch 12% 2013-17	133	-	9.00	8.34
99	95	Treas 8% 2021	97	-	8.21	8.20
UNDATED						
45	41	War Ln 3½%	42	-	8.27	
32	29	Treas 2½%	30	+	8.32	
50	46	Consols 4%	47	-	8.43	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
113	111	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	112 †	+	1.33	2.75
180	178	Treas IL 2½% 2001	178	-	3.00	3.54
176	171	Treas IL 2½% 2003	174	-	3.18	3.59
118	112	Treas IL 4⅛% 2004	114	-	3.23	3.60
185	178	Treas IL 2% 2006	182	-	3.39	3.62
167	161	Treas IL 2½% 2009	164	-	3.43	3.67
173	166	Treas IL 2½% 2011	169	-	3.48	3.70
143	136	Treas IL 2½% 2013	139	-	3.53	3.72
152	145	Treas IL 2½% 2016	149	-	3.57	3.75
146	138	Treas IL 2½% 2020	142	-	3.61	3.76
122	115	Treas IL 2½% 2024	118	-	3.60	3.74
120	113	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	118	-	3.60	3.75

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MINING

OIL & GAS

MEDIA

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Groland Amer	216.60	229.20	+ 0.20	0.15
Groland Equity	282.10	300.10	- 0.10	1.79
Groland Euro	274.20	290.10	- 2.40	0.57
Groland Expl Bal	132.30	137.10		2.57
Groland Gilt	76.10	72.45	+ 0.01	6.13
Groland Asian	194.10	205.40	+ 0.60	.
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	665.80	708.40†	+ 0.90	2.49
General Inc	585.70	601.90†	+ 0.70	2.49
UK Growth Acc	451.30	480.20†	- 0.60	2.70
UK Growth Inc	296.30	315.30†	+ 0.40	2.70
Higher Inc Acc	908.90	860.60†	- 0.50	4.11
Higher Inc Inc	441.30	469.50†	- 0.20	4.11
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	205.20	216.80†		5.64
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.10	97.28†	- 0.01	5.64
Nth America	381.60	406.00†	+ 2.50	
Europe	380.10	383.10†	- 0.80	0.39
Brit Excell	89.56	95.28	+ 0.17	2.83
Brit Fndmtl. Acc	117.20	124.70†		4.63
Brit Fndmtls Inc	80.30	85.43†	- 0.02	4.63
Global Opps	107.30	114.20	+ 0.20	0.19
Balanced Acc	64.27	68.38†	+ 0.04	2.58
Balanced Inc	60.74	64.52†	+ 0.02	2.58
Japan Acc	51.01	54.27†	+ 0.11	
Pac Basin Acc	432.10	459.70†	- 0.80	0.77
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	128.30	136.20†	- 0.10	7.34
High Inc Equity	185.40	198.30†	- 0.20	4.35
Worldwide Bond	290.40	307.90	- 0.80	4.55
American Growth	369.10	394.50	+ 2.70	0.19
Asian Pacific	357.40	382.20	- 1.90	0.08
Assets & Earnings	311.70	331.60	- 0.80	2.72
Euro Capital Acc	182.30	195.20	- 0.70	0.63
Extra Inc	44.21	47.05†		8.04
General	281.80	299.80		2.93
Global Opps	69.21	73.63	- 0.01	0.54
Japan	136.60	146.10	+ 0.10	
Managed Inc	48.68	51.79†	- 0.06	4.49
Mastertrust	172.20	184.20	- 0.20	1.40
US Emerging Cos	211.60	225.10	+ 3.00	
Ethical	94.05	87.42	- 0.04	2.47
International	144.30	153.50		0.57
Dividend & Growth	69.40	73.83	- 0.06	4.16
Global Gwth & Sec	72.65	77.62	- 0.02	2.42
Latin America	62.27	66.24	- 0.09	
Capital Reserve	143.00	143.10		5.24
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2206.00	2296.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	59.96	62.15†	- 0.36	0.49
Emerging Mkts	75.68	79.77	- 0.21	0.04
European	150.50	156.60		
Europa	1064.20	1127.30†	- 7.80	1.64
Extra Income #	47.95	51.54†	+ 0.23	6.43
Far East Emg Ecn	140.50	147.50	- 0.10	0.42
Fixed Interest #	24.89	25.68	+ 0.06	9.58
Fund Inv Tst	155.90	163.70†	- 0.30	9.37
Japan	198.50	206.40	- 0.30	
Latin American	56.32	59.75	- 0.02	0.93
Pacific	31.08	35.55†	- 0.01	0.22
Property Share	67.95	71.32	+ 0.32	2.46
UK Emerging Cos	75.19	79.77	+ 6.30	1.22
UK Growth	52.31	55.27†	+ 0.07	2.12
Abtr World Port #	84.39	89.31	- 0.11	1.91
Ethical	29.91	32.11	- 0.07	2.12
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.21	50.21†	+ 0.01	7.48
For [illegible] see [illegible]				
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
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Cazenove Portfolio	101.70	108.47	.	2.36
American Portfolio	118.90	126.32	.	0.90
European Portfolio	129.89	137.96†	.	0.42
High Income	50.96	51.07		7.83
Japanese Portfolio	75.27	80.05†	+ 0.20	
Pacific Portfolio	164.22	176.59	- 0.74	1.34
UK Equity	96.87	103.60†	.	2.73
UK Equity & Bd	59.81	60.48	.	6.31
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	769.71	781.35	.	4.15
Fxd In Sec	153.78	154.40		9.26
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	746.47	757.75		4.33
Investment Acc	13365	13416		
Fixed Int Inc	123.44	123.94	...	9.36
Fixed Int Acc	214.83	215.69	.	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	89.40	94.47	+ 0.38	3.14
Beck Bio-Tech	47.15	50.65		
Accum Ethical Tst	183.16	192.33		0.58
City Fin Accels	83.14	87.30†		1.91
City Fin America	122.14	128.26†	- 0.42	
City Fin Intl	97.62	102.51†	- 0.78	0.47
City Fin Japan	166.30	174.63	+ 4.11	
Fram: Hse Cap	333.91	355.22		2.11
Fram: Hse Inc	211.22	224.70	...	3.96
Buckley Yield Gth	155.79	166.14†	- 1.84	
Falcon Cap Gth	159.91	167.17		
Fairmount Intl	168.16	177.01		
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	58.04	60.95	.	1.54
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.71	62.35	- 0.23	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	91.03	96.20	- 0.85	
Dragon Growth	75.40	81.71	- 0.04	0.36
Equity High Inc	91.37	97.20	+ 0.16	4.10
-do- Accum	128.61	136.82	- 0.15	4.10
Extra Income Inc	25.87	27.22†		7.53
Extra Income Acc	27.67	29.12		7.53
European Gwth	64.30	68.22	- 0.03	0.92
Evergreen	31.72	33.52	- 0.09	
General Equity	102.70	103.97	- 0.15	2.93
Japan Growth	56.91	60.44	+ 0.22	
Pedigree Gwth	63.60	67.55	- 0.30	2.33
Ped Sm Cos Inc	38.45	40.90	+ 0.13	1.38
-do- Accum	40.40	43.06	- 0.13	1.38
Retirement Inc #	28.57	30.39	+ 0.04	5.76
Special Sits	48.75	51.86	+ 0.21	1.87
UK & Overseas	60.50	64.39	- 0.05	0.67
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 888 000				
Balanced	69.94	71.72	- 0.04	4.00
Capital	83.05	85.43	+ 0.19	[illegible]
High Income	50.50	53.52	- 0.07	7.20
Top 50	56.07	58.33	+ 0.06	2.09
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO [illegible]				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	199.82	200.87†	- 0.22	[illegible]
Long Gilt	41.58	44.29†	- 0.11	[illegible]
Monthly Inc Plus	49.27	52.42†	- 0.02	8.55
Preference Share	47.14	50.16†	- 0.04	7.95
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	136.43	145.19†	- 0.17	5.88
Managed Fund	77.02	[illegible]	- 0.10	[illegible]
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	50.40	[illegible]	- 0.10	[illegible]
-do- Accum	59.61	[illegible]	- 0.11	[illegible]
UK & General	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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Sector Value Gwth	100.50	105.10†	- 0.30	2.14
Hy 5 Europe	102.90	107.60	- 1.00	2.56
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3030				
World Health	234.70	249.60	- 2.60	
Income #	209.73	[illegible]	- 0.58	[illegible]
UK Growth	95.37	[illegible]	- 0.06	1.93
Intl Growth	91.36	97.19	- 0.04	0.44
Ecology	105.95	112.60†	- 0.17	0.95
European	166.66	[illegible]	- 0.92	
Far Eastern	338.50	360.10	- 3.90	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
M&W JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01630 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1503.50	1530.70		2.30
Income #	[illegible]	1056.50		4.00
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Global Income	240.00	255.30	- 0.10	3.39
High Yield	154.00	163.80†	+ 0.50	5.47
-do- Accum	495.20	526.80†	+ 1.80	5.47
Smllr Cos Div	62.81	66.82	+ 0.22	3.11
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	154.30	164.20	+ 1.60	
Asian Growth	368.50	392.00	+ 0.50	0.21

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-do- Accum	210.10	216.60	+ 0.50	2.25
UK Sel Pfolio	157.90	162.80	+ 0.40	2.49
-do- Accum	187.70	193.50	+ 0.50	2.49
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Managed Tst	72.97	77.83†		3.89
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Enquiries: 0171 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 262 443				
American Income	125.10	133.10	+ 0.60	[illegible]
Conv & Gilt	123.00	130.40		[illegible]
European Income	87.15	92.72†	- 0.46	[illegible]
Eqty Income	182.20	193.80†	- 1.70	[illegible]
-do- Accum	232.80	247.50	- 2.10	[illegible]
Far East	468.70	498.60†	- 1.50	[illegible]
-do- Accum	478.50	509.10	- 1.50	[illegible]
Global Income	29.38	31.25	+ 0.03	[illegible]
High Income	138.30	147.10†	+ 1.20	[illegible]
-do- Accum	174.50	185.60	+ 1.50	[illegible]
International	230.10	244.80†		[illegible]
-do- Accum	238.40	253.60		[illegible]
Pref & Fxd Int	42.36	45.06†	- 1.03	[illegible]
Recovery	88.72	94.38	+ 0.33	[illegible]

هدايا من الاهل

هكذا من الاصل

■ FILM 1

With McKellen in superbly sinister form, the Thirties updating of *Richard III* makes rip-roaring cinema

■ FILM 2

Poised acting does not rescue *The Birdcage*, a limp and dated remake of *La Cage aux folles*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ FILM 3

Julianne Moore plays the housewife who succumbs to "environmental illness" in the unnerving *Safe*

■ FILM 4

Jean-Claude Van Damme ripples his torso and saves democracy (again) in *Sudden Death*

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** sees Ian McKellen take *Richard III* and turn it into a great night at the pictures

Now showing: the man who would be king

If Shakespeare were alive today, he would be writing for the movies. How many times have we heard this? Completely unprovable, of course: for all we know, the Bard might fancy designing video games or reading the news on Channel 4. But **Richard III**, the film, goes some way towards making the cliché appear true.

Take the first flurry of shots. On the soundtrack a ticker-tape ticks. A tank crashes through a book-lined study, heralding the King's assassination some time in the 1930s. Earl Rivers flies in from America. During victory celebrations in a palace ballroom, Ian McKellen's Duke of Gloucester takes the band singer's microphone. But instead of singing he soliloquises: "Now is the winter of our discontent, made glorious summer . . ."

Limping through the crowd, this oleaginous charmer with the thin moustache (think Hitler, think Mosley) beckons us and the camera to follow him. We end up in the gent's toilet, the soliloquy still flowing. Shakespeare was never like this before. Even Richard Eyre's 1990 National Theatre production, the film's inspiration, was never like this.

The energy is overwhelming. Much of it stems from the telescoped script: what can last four hours on stage now takes 103 minutes. McKellen sends up his own shower of sparks. Transposing Shakespeare's disfigured schemer to the decade that appeased fascist dictators may be an obvious trick, but McKellen's force keeps the characterisation valid. Speaking to others, this murderous usurper in black military uniform coats words with jam. Speaking to us, straight to camera, out come the smirk, the scowl and the conniving glint. This man, you feel, is truly dangerous.

And yet the film might still have trundled along, half theatre, half cinema, with a director other than Richard Loncraine. Experienced in television and commercials, Loncraine is uninhibited by reverence for the text or the sight of great actors in flight. He pushes the images along like a speed demon: and if some of Shakespeare's words jar in context — "My kingdom for a horse!" Richard cries as his Jeep is hit — then it's just too bad.

Indeed, collisions between text and image are part of the film's jaunty appeal. Here is Lady Anne (Kristin Scott-Thomas) going to hell the modern way, injecting heroin into her thigh and smoking rolled-up banknotes. Here are Annette Bening and Robert Downey Jr lounging like tourists as Edward IV's American wife and brother-in-law. Locations and computer simulations provide amusement of their own. Edward rules from the Gothic exuberance of a riverside St Pancras, while Richard prefers the cold marble of Senate House. As for Bosworth Field, site of the final battle, that becomes the burnt-out shell of Battersea Power Station.

Shakespeare's words are cut to the quick but otherwise unaltered, apart from the odd rebuke by Richard's chauffeur to a kid jumping on the car's fender. Loncraine's actors vigorously pitch into the charade: with Jim Broadbent as Buckingham, Maggie Smith as a horrified Duchess of York and Nigel Hawthorne as the gentle Clarence, you are guaranteed tasty moments. This may not be the most thoughtful Shakespeare production around; but it certainly makes for rip-roaring cinema.

Richard III
Curzon West End
15, 103 mins
Shakespeare sets the screen on fire

The Birdcage
Empire, 15, 119 mins
Crass, gaudy remake of La Cage aux folles

Safe
MGM Piccadilly
15, 118 mins
Unnerving drama about environmental sickness

Sudden Death
Plaza, 18, 110 mins
Van Damme saves the world. Yawn

The Birdcage revisits a different set text, Jean Poiret's hit play of the 1970s, *La Cage aux folles*, first filmed in 1978. The American remake, slick and shallow, whisks the story from the French Riviera to South Beach, Florida, where the sun beats down and neon glows at the Birdcage nightclub. Robin Williams is its buttoned-down manager, Armand; Nathan Lane his flamboyant partner Albert, the show's drag queen. Panic, never far from the surface, strikes anew when Armand's son announces his engagement. How will the ultra-conservative in-laws react to this unorthodox family?

Time has moved on since Michel Serrault dangled a limp wrist in 1978. Now we have Aids to consider, and we take far less kindly to stereotypes. But this transfer, prepared by distinguished hands (Mike Nichols directs and Elaine May writes), leaves the old gay wonderland untouched. Any topicality in the film comes from the character of Gene Hackman's Republican Senator, co-founder of the Coalition for Moral Order, and his nervously smiling wife, Dianne Wiest.

Unfortunately, it takes more than a joke about Bob Dole to make a movie contemporary. Scratch the surface and *The Birdcage* rattles with age as it cranks up the clichés of farce and drag comedy. On a technical level, you can admire the cast's poise and timing. Williams underplays generously, leaving room for Broadway star Lane to flounce with finesse and some natural warmth.

In six weeks The Birdcage has taken $100 million at the US box-office. But you expect more from the old team of Nichols and May than a film *that only hits* the jackpot by draping a corpse in gaudy colours and getting up the gay community's nose.

After *The Birdcage*, the placid surface of Todd Haynes's **Safe** might seem to offer relief. The camera sits still, quietly eyeing Julianne Moore as she goes about the dull business of being a housewife in the San Fernando valley. A couch is delivered in the wrong colour. She goes to the fitness club, and perms her hair; any hard work is left to Fulvia, her Hispanic drudge.

But wait a minute. This film is by the man who told the Karen Carpenter story with a cast of Barbie dolls, and mixed the styles of TV documentary, 1950s sci-fi and homo-erotic drama in *Poison*. If his new film is quiet, the calm must be deceptive. It is. For the housewife's life is under surreptitious attack. Little things unhinge her. Exhaust fumes prompt coughing. She bleeds at the nose. A leaflet informs her about "environmental illness". A video tells her more: there are 6,000 chemicals in daily use, and only 10 per cent have been tested for toxicity.

Suspecting an allergy to modern life, she retreats to a New Age health centre, marooned in the desert in New Mexico. "We are one, we are safe, all's well with our world," the centre's motto reads. But the heroine's health and identity are still being eroded; soon there may be nothing of her left.

This is a most unnerving film. The narrative traps you in a tunnel. There is no escape to other stories, no emergence into sunlight. You must stick with the heroine's disintegrating life. At first comedy is allowed for: you can laugh at the ritual trivialities of suburban life. But by the time the housewife reaches her New Age cocoon, the film has left satire far behind, and leaves us to ponder gloomily on what ravages life more: environmental pollution or human attitudes to sickness.

Haynes gives his lead actress little room to manoeuvre. But Moore — so wonderful in *Vanya on 42nd Street*, so wasted in *Nine Months* — carries the role with great resilience, and never slips into catatonia. *Safe* may not be the most entertaining movie around, but it is made with great care, changes perceptions and provokes serious thought.

Sudden Death provokes nothing except yawns. An extortionist gang takes the American Vice-President hostage during an ice-hockey game in Pittsburgh. After rigging the arena with bombs, they demand $1 billion from Treasury funds frozen abroad; and the only man who can stop them is the Muscles from Brussels, Jean-Claude Van Damme, on fireman duty in a crowd of 17,000.

Van Damme, still not much of an actor, comes into his own when he gets kicking, and thrusting villains into meat grinders and chip pans. Director Peter Hyams never stints on the action, but you always feel you're watching a machine, not participating in a live drama.

A boring villain further reduces excitement. Powers Boothe's former CIA psycho is suave and sarcastic. His demands include "world peace, an end to bigotry, and no more mini-malls". But the character dulls through repetition, and Boothe's voice brings no refreshment: he sounds like Gregory Peck smeared with honey.

Ian McKellen is a villain well worth booing and hissing in his chopped-down and speeded up version of *Richard III*

'Entertaining and explosive'

Every week, young film fans discuss the new releases . . .

SNAP VERDICT

RICHARD III

Matt Jones, 23: Some of its power has been lost by reducing the text, but it compensates with a great cast.

Dave Bere, 22: I found the story confusing to follow but the film was lavish and entertaining, with storming performances from all the actors.

Damian Samuels, 23: It could have done with an extra half-an-hour to tie up some loose ends in the plot, but it was entertaining and explosive.

Jon Gibson, 19: I really love Shakespeare and I'm a big fan of this play. This is a cracking version and I would recommend everybody see it.

THE BIRDCAGE

Matt: Hilarious — the best comedy of the year so far.

Dave: A superficial farce with some superb acting and hysterical moments.

Damian: Bawdy, sexy and gorgeous — as funny as *Some Like it Hot*.

Jon: Wonderfully vibrant and deliciously camp.

SAFE

Matt: The style of the film was bizarre — a cross between a social documentary and *Miami Vice* — and failed to captivate.

Dave: Too many relationships were left unexplored and the film left me unsatisfied. The acting was good, though.

Damian: While one would like to commend Tod Haynes for tackling the subject, *Safe* is totally devoid of any verve.

Jon: Very moving, but the action was slow at times.

RADIO

Lesson from America

BRITAIN'S absurd political obsession with Europe has been reflected in the media, and understandably so. But that has tended to squeeze out traditional sources of enlightenment, particularly America, so that current affairs programming is now more likely to focus on Europe (and Asia) than the United States.

The balance needed restoring, not least because so many American companies have plants in Britain. So a new three-part series, **America Dreaming** (Radio 4, Tuesdays) is to be welcomed. It is flagged as a *World Tonight* special: from that stable one expects quality and this provides it.

One key lesson of Simon Dring's reports is that he could be in Britain, except for the accents. "Downsizing" has been the industrial buzzword of America since the 1980s, as it is here. Americans, like Britons, greet a coming election with scepticism: what can politicians do to save jobs, if industries are set on moving jobs elsewhere?

In Iowa, Dring found once-great providers of jobs reduced to nothing, by strikes in the case of Firestone and by relocation in the case of John Deere. A man who earned the equivalent of £10.86 an hour at Firestone now works in a petrol station opposite the factory for £4.30 an hour. Kenny Merton, a road-maintenance worker, earns £4.86 an hour now, the same as he was paid in the same job 20 years ago. Bill Clinton, on a campaign swing through Iowa, decries the fact that the national minimum wage (£2.83 an hour) has less purchasing power now than it did 40 years ago. So much for that panacea.

The upshot is that 43 million American jobs have been lost since 1979 and the number of people on subsistence incomes is higher than ever. Old class divisions, always measured in America by income rather than by social status, have all but disappeared.

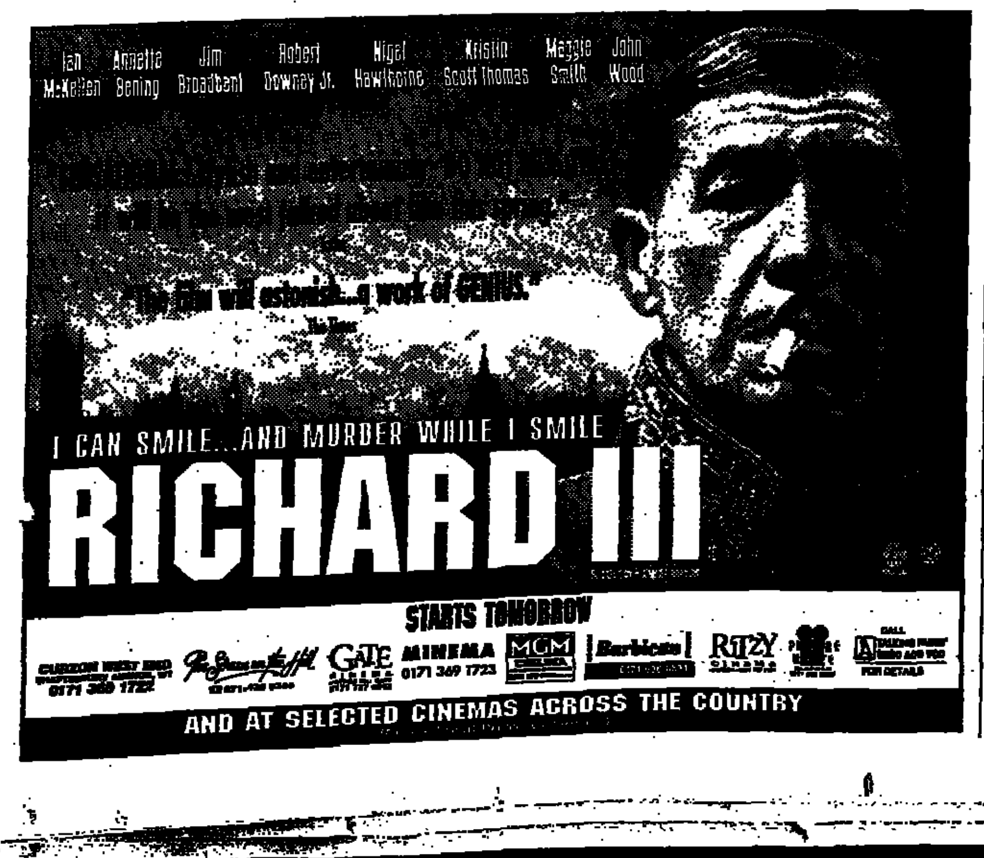
As Merton said: "We used to have a lower class, a middle class and an upper class. But right now you either have money or you don't. There's no middle class."

The Midwest has gone the way of the old British industrial heartlands, bringing fear and insecurity. The role of trade unions has been crucial, for their power forced up wages in the 1970s.

Now American companies have a simple message: work for what we offer or we will move to another state. Iowa is already one of the poorest states in America, but there is always a neighbouring country, Mexico, where people will work for $1 an hour.

Throughout Dring's tour of the homes and the bowling alleys of the insecure and the dispossessed, we kept hearing the unspoken: if finding cheaper labour is just a matter of upping sticks and moving from one United State to another, what would happen in a United States of Europe?

PETER BARNARD



Ian McKellen Annette Bening Jim Broadbent Robert Downey Jr. Nigel Hawthorne Kristin Scott Thomas Maggie Smith John Wood

"The film will astonish...a work of GENIUS."

I CAN SMILE...AND MURDER WHILE I SMILE

RICHARD III

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■ CHOICE 1

Leslie Phillips makes his Chichester debut in *Love for Love*

VENUE: In preview at the Festival Theatre

■ CHOICE 2

David Mamet's adaptation of *The Three Sisters* comes to Britain

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Harrogate Theatre

THE TIMES ARTS

■ VIDEOS

"Houston, we have a problem": Tom Hanks is stuck in space in the thrilling story of *Apollo 13*

■ RECORDS

The burgeoning talent of the British baritone Bryn Terfel is showcased on a new recital disc

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

DONATELLA FLICK CONDUCTING COMPETITION: The culmination of this biennial event with the three young finalists trying out their conducting skills on the London Symphony Orchestra. The programmes are drawn by lots from a selection of works by Beethoven, Berlioz, Saint-Saëns, Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev; the winner will be announced at the end of the concert.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

MULES: Winsome Pinnock's drug-courier drama: two Jamaican sisters are enticed by a big reward. Abi Eniola, Clare Perkins, Sheila Whitfield play 13 characters, directed by Roxana Silbert.
Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 2554). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. Opens April 30.

DOUBLE BILL: The pianist Andrei Gavrilov joins the **Japan Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra** as it begins a European tour with two concerts in Britain. Yoshimatsu's *The Age of Birds* opens tonight's concert at the Festival Hall, followed by Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* and Falla's *The Three-Cornered Hat*. Jun'ichi Hirokami conducts this and tomorrow's concert at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham. At the Purcell Room, Bob Hunt directs the annual tribute to the jazz maestro **Duke Ellington**.
South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, both at 7.30pm. Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

CHICHESTER: *The 1996 Chichester* Festival Theatre Season opens with the first night of previews for **Love for Love**, William Congreve's comedy about money, vanity, hypocrisy and growing old. Starring Richard Garnett, Derek Jacobi, and Leslie Phillips in his house debut. Directed by Ian Judge.
Festival, Oaklands Park (01243 781312). Tonight, 7.30pm, Fri 8pm; mat Sat 2.30pm. Opens Apr 27, 8pm. Ⓢ

HARROGATE: The European premiere of David Mamet's adaptation of **The Three Sisters**. Andrew Manley directs Chekhov's poignant yet comically absurd play, in which time is literally slipping by in Michael Spencer's revolving stage design.
Harrogate, Oxford Street (01423 502116). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Tue-Sat 7.45pm; mats Sat 2.30pm (May 4, 11). Until May 11.

LEEDS: Opera North presents Gerhard's masterpiece **The Duenna** — adored for its wit and carnival atmosphere when first performed in 1992. Susannah Glanville returns to the *company as Donna Luisa, with Claire* Powell in the title role. Helena Kaut-Howson directs a new performing edition by David Drew. Sung in English.
Grand, New Briggate (0113-245 9351/440971). Tonight, 7.15pm. Ⓢ

MANCHESTER: Frans Brüggen conducts the **Hallé Orchestra** and Choir in his arrangement of Bach's *Ricercare* and Beethoven's great choral *work, the Symphony No 9 in D minor*. With Lynne Dawson, soprano, Katarina Karneus, mezzo-soprano, and Peter Savidge, bass. Repeated on Sunday.
Free Trade Hall, Peter Street (0161-834 1712). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Beirut: Uncovering the Past (0171-636 1555) . . . **Courtauld:** Drawings by Thomas Gainsborough (071-873 2526) . . . **Festival Hall:** Music People and others by Betty Freeman (0171-960 4242) . . . **National Gallery:** Old Master paintings from Rome's Doria Pamphilj Gallery (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait Gallery:** David Livingstone and the Victorian Encounter with Africa (0171-306 0055) . . . **Richard Green:** L.S. Lowry (1071-493 3939) . . . **Royal Academy:** Gustave Caillebotte (0171-439 7438) . . . **Tate:** Cézanne (0171-887 8000) . . . **V & A:** Arts and Crafts Architecture (0171-938 8500) . . . **Whitechapel:** Jeff Wall's transparencies (0171-522 7888)

◆

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
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☐ **COMPANY:** *Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra.*
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **DEFINITELY DORIS:** Revue-style musical celebrating the life and songs of Miss Day. High sugar content.
King's Head, 119 Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat and Sun, 3.30pm. Until May 26. Ⓢ

◩ **FOE:** Théâtre de Complicite's arresting new work, based on J.M. Coetzee's *radical revision of Robinson Crusoe*, with Kathryn Hunter as the rescued castaway trying to make Mr Daniel Foe believe her story.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). *Now previewing*, 7.30pm. Opens Apr 29, 7.30pm. Until June 1.

◩ **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC:** Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias of Sondheim's Swedish charmer. Judi Dench, Patricia Hodge, *Siân Phillips and Lambert Wilson among the stars shining in the night.*
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight, 7.15pm, in rep with *The Prince's Play*. Ⓢ

☐ **MISS JULIE:** *Actors Touring Co bring the second of this spring's three productions of Strindberg's drama. Nick Philippou directs Kate Fenwick, Kristin Howson and Peter Lindford, using Gregory Motton's translation.*
Gate, Pembridge Rd, W11 (0171-229 5387). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until May 11.

☐ **PASSION:** An unconvincing musical from Sondheim, but Maria Friedman remarkably good as a voracious man-hunter who gets her man. With Michael Ball.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5590). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

■ **SKYLIGHT:** Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's *conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion* between two lovers.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, *WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat*, 8pm, mat Sat 3pm. Final week.

☐ **TOLSTOY:** Oscar-winning F. Murray Abraham (*Salieri in Amadeus*) plays the complicated novelist and Gemma Jones his infuriated wife, clawing at each other in James Goldman's play about their curdled marriage. Tony Award-winner Jack Hofsiss directs.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Now previewing, 7.45pm, mat Sat 3pm. Opens Apr 30, 7pm.

☐ ***TWELVE ANGRY MEN:*** *Kevin* Whately, Timothy West, Peter Vaughan and nine excellent others in Reginald Rose's celebrated jury-room drama.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed 2.30pm and Sat 4pm.

☐ **WHAT A BLEEDIN' LIBERTY!:** Kate Williams and Eric Richard play an old couple scavenging on a scrap heap. Philip Hedley directs Tom *Kempinski's riposte to Sam Beckett's "philosophy of meaninglessness".*
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310). Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thurs (May 9, 16) 2pm.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . . ◩ **Cats:** New London (0171-405 0072) . . . ◩ **Fame: The Musical:** Cambridge (0171-494 5053) . . . ◩ **Jolson:** Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . . . ☐ **Mack and Mabel:** Piccadilly (0171-369 1734) . . . ■ **Les Misérables:** Palace (0171-434 0909) . . . ◩ **Miss Saigon:** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . . ☐ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . . . ☐ **Sunset Boulevard:** Adelphi (0171-344 0055)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BEFORE AND AFTER** (12): Glum family drama with Meryl Streep and Liam Neeson as parents of a teenager accused of murder. Director, Barbet Schroeder.
Odeons: Kensington (01426-914 666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057)

SMOKE (15): Criss-crossing lives in Brooklyn. Agreeable, talky piece written by Paul Auster, with Harvey Keitel and William Hurt. Director, Wayne Wang.
Everyman Ⓢ (0171-435 1525) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **MGM Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **TWELVE MONKEYS** (15): Unwieldy extravaganza from Terry Gilliam, with Bruce Willis as the time-traveller seeking the source of a virus. With Madeleine Stowe, Brad Pitt.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0800-888 997) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

UNZIPPED (15): Exuberant documentary about fashion designer Isaac Misrahi as he creates a new collection. Director, Douglas Keeve.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

CURRENT

◆ **BROKEN ARROW** (15): John *Travolta steals nuclear weapons;* Christian Slater tries to get them back. Bumptious and brainless action movie, directed by John Woo.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

CASINO (18): Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1970s: glorious background detail, but the human drama flags. With Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

LA CEREMONIE (15): The perfect housemaid gets her revenge on her employers. Absorbing version of Ruth Rendell's *A Judgement in Stone*, with Isabelle Huppert and Sandrine Bonnaire. Director, Claude Chabrol.
MGMs: Panton Street (0171-930 0631) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470)

◆ **GET SHORTY** (15): John Travolta's loanshark takes on the movie business. Entertaining but trivial comedy from Elmore Leonard's novel. Director, Barry Sonnenfeld. With Danny De Vito, Gene Hackman, Rene Russo, Delroy Lindo.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **MIGHTY APHRODITE** (15): Woody Allen searches for his adopted son's natural mother. Engaging variation on old themes, with Oscar-winner Mira Sorvino.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST (PG): Cary Grant is mistaken for a non-existent spy. Welcome revival of Hitchcock's playful, entertaining thriller (1959), with James Mason and Eva Marie Saint.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527)

◆ **SGT. BILKO** (PG): Crass spin-off from Phil Silvers's television comedy classic, with Steve Martin as the conniving army sergeant. With Dan Akyroyd. Director, Jonathan Lynn.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

Right stuff, wrong mission

NEW ON VIDEO

Which way is home? (Clockwise from left) Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon and Bill Paxton as the *Apollo 13* astronauts

■ APOLLO 13
CIC, PG, 1995

THE controls flash red. An oxygen tank explodes. And mission control hears the message: "Houston, we have a problem". Ron Howard's film recreates the 1970 Apollo 13 space flight with fine special effects, straightforward drama but an unprobing mind: 25 years after the events, you expect something more than flag-waving heroism. Tom Hanks, as Jim Lovell, is Everyman in the cockpit, though the most interesting astronaut is Kevin Bacon's Jack Swigert, a swinging bachelor drafted into the crew at the last minute. Rental release.

■ THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS
Warner, 15, 1946

A DEAD pianist's hand comes back to life to scuttle round the keyboard like a crab, making life miserable for his crazy secretary and greedy relatives. An imperfect but diverting horror movie, with Peter Lorre at his eeriest and a fine director, Robert Florey, spicing the brew with macabre humour and lots of Germanic shadows.

■ BUTTERFLY KISS
PolyGram, 18, 1995

AMANDA PLUMMER and Saskia Reeves litter the motorways with corpses in this arresting but dubious British freak show — a first cinema venture for television director Michael Winterbottom. Plummer is Eunice, with chains and bruises round her chest; Reeves is the mousy Miriam, *following devotedly in her footsteps.* Characters talk grandly about punishment and hell, but the fancy words lead nowhere. To compensate, Winterbottom gets good visual mileage from the dreary geography of Tarmac, service stations and motels. To rent.

■ PANTHER
PolyGram, 18, 1995

HURTLING, rose-tinted drama about the rise of the Black Panther movement in the 1960s. In this retelling, the *Panthers' only fault is an excess of zeal;* while the drug problem in urban ghettos can be traced directly to the FBI, the meanest villains who ever lived. Historical figures crowd the script, but Kadeem Hardison's lead character is fictional, an average citizen swept up into the party's struggles. Belligerent direction by Mario Van Peebles. Available to rent.

■ THE SCARLET LETTER
Entertainment, 15, 1995

THE film-makers did not know which way to face when they made this adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel about love and intolerance in 17th-century Massachusetts. They wanted to be historically sensitive: hence the thees, the thous, and the white man's guilt over the Indians. They wanted to be relevant: so Demi Moore's Hester Prynne is a feminist martyr. They wanted good box-office: so Moore and pastor Gary Oldman frolic in the nude. Students of American literature should be amused; the rest may be slightly bored. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Winter walk in song; religious Rubbra; a tour of Terfel

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ SCHUBERT
Winterreise
Holzmair/Cooper
Philips 446 407-2★★★

THE Austrian baritone Wolfgang Holzmair has quite a *reputation as a walker, and he* has admitted that he frequently finds the rhythm for a song through the soles of his feet. That may account for the unusually instinctive sense of pacing in this deeply thoughtful performance of Schubert's great songcycle.

Holzmair's light, lyric baritone never over-presses an interpretative point: the gripping detail of his performance builds cumulatively and mesmerically through long, supple and melodic lines and *invigorating rhythmic definition.* The listener is made to feel the heat of desperation, the slow chill of the awareness of mortality. Imogen Cooper's piano playing, too, brings out the physicality of Schubert's *writing: the movement of water, spring growth, autumn* leaf fall and human footfall.

As the wanderer strides on, Holzmair offers a striking juxtaposition of the steady, inexorable tread in *The Signpost* — whose pulse picks up *that of the very first song* — and the almost total stillness of *The Inn*, before the last song, each syllable uniquely matt, staring, and numb as the hurdy-gurdy's note.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ RUBBRA
Symphony No 9:
The Morning Watch
Jones/Roberts/BBC National Orchestra of Wales/Hickox
Chandos CHAN 9441★★★

RICHARD HICKOX'S first release of symphonies by Edmund Rubbra last December included the masterpiece of the set: the Fourth. Symphony *No 9 is a very different proposition.* Where the Fourth is Rubbra's most cogently argued, organic work in the genre, the Ninth, subtitled *Sinfonia Sacra (The Resurrection)*, compresses symphonic and oratorio forms.

Both works are visionary, but the Ninth is explicitly religious (indeed Christian) in inspiration, telling the story of the Resurrection in Passion style, complete with narrations and chorales. There are innovations, however, such as *the brief spoken passage after* the Resurrection and a chorus for divided tenors.

Della Jones is the reflective Narrator, Stephen Roberts an assured Jesus, and Lynne Dawson takes the small but important solo soprano role. *Hickox again shows a natural* empathy for this music.

Rubbra's motet for chorus and orchestra, *The Morning Watch*, is a splendid setting of a poem by the 17th-century mystic poet Henry Vaughan. *The choral writing is in the* best Holst/Vaughan Williams tradition and the BBC National Chorus of Wales does it full justice. The BBC National Orchestra of Wales is on top form in both works.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ BRYN TERFEL
Opera arias
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra/Levine
Deutsche Grammophon 445 866-2★★★

BRYN TERFEL has admitted that this recital is in part a showcase for future roles. On the evidence of this top-class disc, with marvellous support from James Levine and the Met orchestra, several paths are open.

But he begins with Mozart and familiar territory. There is a swaggering *Non più andrai*, a reminder that *Figaro was the role which put* Terfel on the operatic map, and Leporello's Catalogue Aria with which he sung his Giovanni off the stage at Salzburg two summers ago. The natural bonhomie of *Der Vogelfänger* marks him as a *natural for Papageno.*

Arias from *Macbeth* and *Falstaff* also suggest that both Verdi title roles are made for him. Don Magnifico's dream from *Cenerentola* shows him as a potential Fossini buffo.

But his two Wagner extracts provide revelations. Wolfram's *Abendstern* from *Tannhäuser* is sung in a tone of sumptuous wonder and *The Flying Dutchman's* opening aria carries an almost unrivalled excitement. Wagner has to be the first way ahead.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

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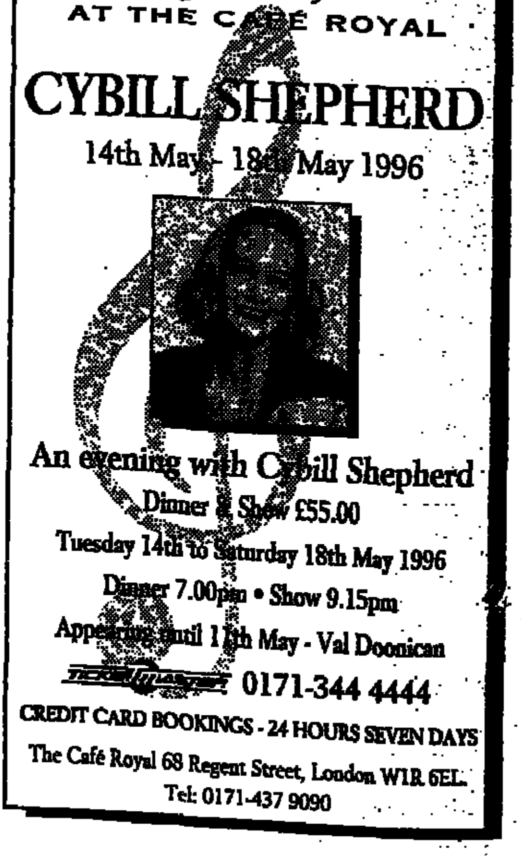

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■ THEATRE 1

Shades of George Bernard Shaw are evoked by Peter Whelan's anti-Royalist play, *Divine Right*

■ THEATRE 2

Molière sparkles in a lively new translation as the Almeida puts *Tartuffe* on stage

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 3

Adrian Noble's intelligent RSC production of *Romeo and Juliet* comes to the Barbican

■ OPERA

A dark and dreary staging, but at least the singing has perked up in Covent Garden's *Tosca*

THEATRE: Sympathetic royal in republican drama; rhyming for good reason in *Tartuffe*; Romeo as repressed adolescent

Good night, sweet prince

The trouble with playing imaginative games of "what if" with the Royal Family is that reality tends to be more improbable than invention. Four years ago which dramatist could have dreamt up a scenario in which the Princess of Wales declared her husband unfit to rule, appointed herself the Queen of People's Hearts, and took the post so literally that a television crew could shoot her watching someone's ticker being cut up? By comparison Peter Whelan's futuristic fancy, which is that Prince Charles celebrates the millennium by renouncing his claim to the throne in favour of his 18-year-old son, seems almost workaday.

Fortunately, Whelan and his director, Bill Alexander, lift the idea far above the workaday. If anything, *Divine Right* is too ambitious, for it actually consists of two plays crammed into 180 minutes, each timely and enthralling but neither developed as fully as it might be. One is mainly concerned with the politicking of a republican faction in and out of the Commons. The other shows the Queen's grandson and heir doing what Henry V did in Eastcheap and, later, at Agincourt: acquainting himself with the feelings of people unlikely to be invited to royal garden parties.

Divine Right
Birmingham Rep

True, each allows plenty of thoughts about the uses and abuses of monarchy to come articulately to the surface. In play one, for instance, a republican wittily suggests that the Royal Family is so adept at "reinventing the 19th century" that Britain's movers and shakers end up sucked into "a never-ending Merchant-Ivory movie". In play two, a Nigerian shopkeeper passionately argues that monarchy might have saved his nation from dictatorship, corruption and chaos. Yet would not the big playwriting Davids, Hare and Edgar, have dealt more trenchantly with the wheeling and dealing in play one?

Here, we get parliamentary wrangles in which the leader of a "sanitised, deodorised, decaffeinated" Labour government — Paul Connolly proving with every smile and gesture that Blair imitation will soon be a major industry — plays games of loyaler-than-thou with his Tory foes. But behind the scenes plots are being hatched between an unregenerate socialist MP (boot-faced Mary Jo Randle), a self-made Tory meritocrat (smirking Ian Gelder) and an eccentric millionaire (bumbling Joe Melia) who thinks the end of "Norman" rule would reunite Britain and Ireland.

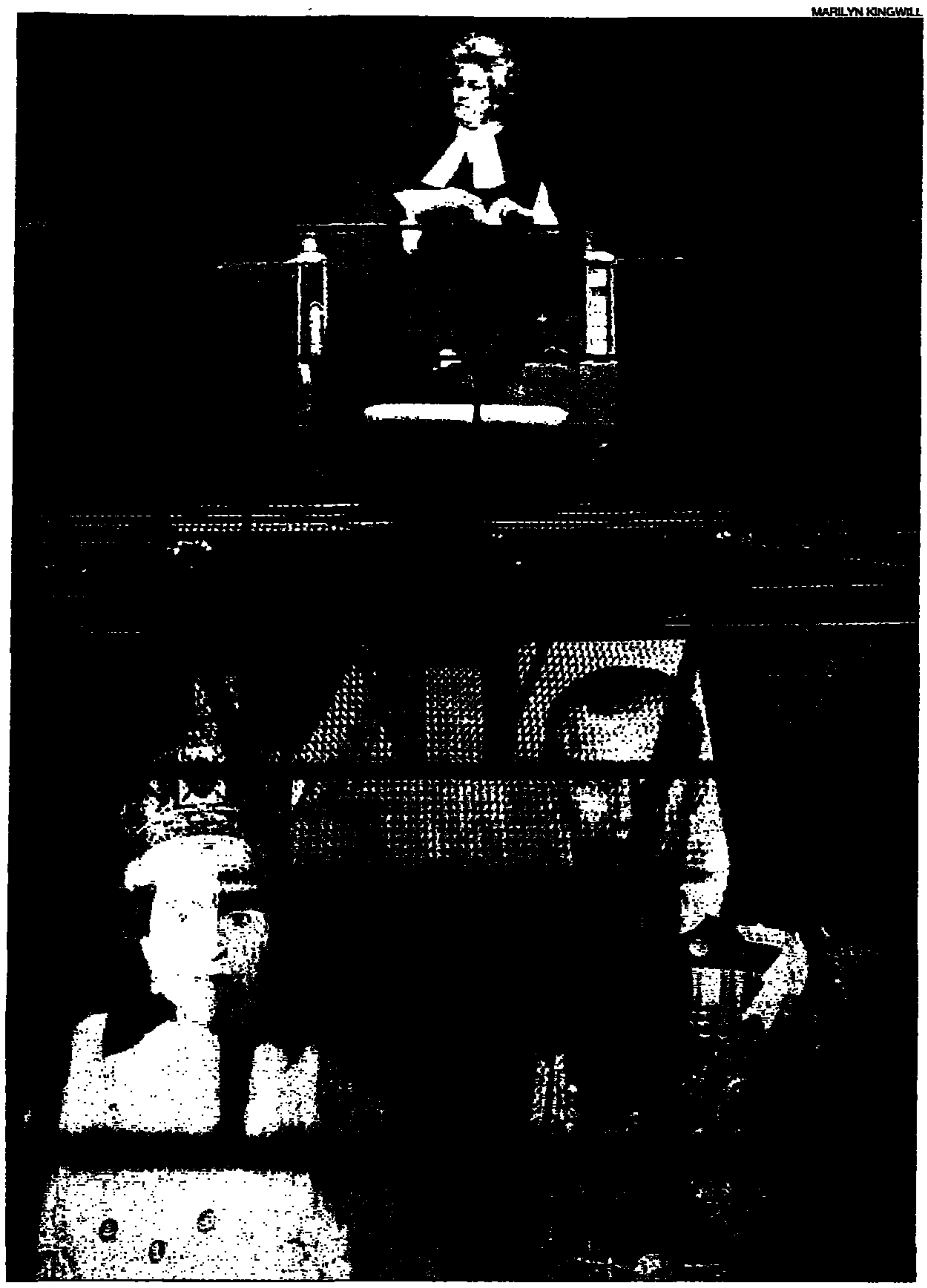
Their conversations suggest deep differences about the republican president — should he be Thomas More or Mussolini? — and these are only half-explored when the prince's secret trek through England ends. This has introduced him to a despairing OAP who begs him to mug and murder her, a fly expatriate estate agent on a trip home, a distraught father who thinks bad royal example has destroyed family values and wrecked his own daughter, skinheads who worship the Queen as an English Führer, and poverty and disillusionment galore.

It is a pretty partial portrait of England, but that does not altogether matter, for, as played by William Mannering, the bomber-jacketed prince is a touchingly real character. He is considerate, conscientious, patient, perceptive, sensitive, vulnerable, and everything some of us think Prince Charles is and hope William will be. One longs to see more of him, for Whelan handles his scenes with a warmth Hare and Edgar would find hard to match.

Here is the play's irony. Whelan, a professed republican, has made a scion of Windsor easily his most sympathetic character. Whether that influences his ending, though, I shall only hint at. This prince is the spiritual heir of King Magnus, admirable protagonist of Shaw's *Apple Cart*. Let me leave an enjoyable evening right there.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL



Shock to the constitution: *Divine Right* concerns parliamentary wrangles about the future of the monarchy

All the better for verse

Tartuffe
Almeida

Some readers of this column took me to task last autumn when I said that a certain prose translation up at Manchester had turned Molière's verse play into a dull thing. But listen to Richard Wilbur's couplets in the version Jonathan Kent uses here and the difference hits you like a breath of sweet air:

You're swathed from head
to foot in haute couture;
It's not to please your
husband, that's for sure.

No, it is not immortal poetry, destined to ring down the centuries, but it has the virtue of being conversational language, fitting in a rhyme without strain — even cheekily linking French and English — and it conveys its meaning with theatrical crispness. It is one of innumerable lines, none perhaps deathless, which nevertheless provide the play with a wideawake argument. The characters become interesting because how they speak is interesting, and thus the play becomes a lively battleground.

Those particular lines are spoken by the besotted Orgon's equally besotted mother, Patsy Byrne (good to see her again), wearing a vast farthingale that turns her into a thick, black, beruffed cylinder. Rob Howell's designs keep the play in the time Molière wrote it, without going to town on froth and fripperies, but he has devised a set the like of which I do not think I have ever seen before. A seat on the left side facing the stage commands the best view of its spiral corridor, severely foreshortened and lined with holy statues like a baroque library.

When Ian McDiarmid's Orgon enters this place he scrupulously touches the feet of each saint, a tactile substitute for what he evidently longs to do to the languorously angelic body of Tom Hollander's Tartuffe. Kent's production (sponsored by the Laura Pels Foundation) draws attention to the sexual spell Tartuffe casts upon his patron. There is a moment when they are like a foolish old man and courtesan together, but this courtesan is a coquette who will never deliver what the mesmerised victim does not, of course, consciously know that he desires.

To his cherubic lips and canny eyes, Hollander brings a murmurously parsonical voice that soothes and enchants yet will suddenly erupt into yelps and howls of remorse that are baroque in their exaggerated emotion. He also plays with his hands a lot, rubbing them together when paying court to Susannah Harker's Elmire, stroking them as the next best thing to a luscious pair of breasts. At the end, struck down by King Louis's all-seeing, all-knowing and quasi-divine justice, this Tartuffe crawls miserably across the stage to hide under a table.

A happy end, you might suppose, with virtue triumphant, were it not that only dramatic licence has brought about the hypocrite's downfall: Kent's judgment is right to make Orgon's immediate future with his wife look decidedly rocky. McDiarmid, a master of testy irony, evidently relishes the snap in Wilbur's lines, and in one neatly orchestrated scene with Diane Bull's unsquashable Dorine goes hammer and tongs with her.

Almost forgotten between them, Emma Chambers's Mariane, previously a bubbly creature — and with a pretty habit of tossing her side-curls — is now too terrified even to snivel. In moments like this, McDiarmid has the look of a furious, bleached parrot. Wilbur, Kent and the actor playing Cléante (David Lyon) even make the play's moral aphorisms worth listening to; and this, in contrast to last year's experience, is a really welcome experience.

JEREMY KINGSTON

DONALD COOPER

Hidden lust: Ian McDiarmid's Orgon is besotted with Tom Hollander as Molière's pious hypocrite, Tartuffe

Boys and girls come out to kill

Romeo and Juliet
Barbican

THE Montagues and Capulets are definitely resident in Italy in Adrian Noble's intelligent RSC production (sponsored by Allied Domecq), which has transferred from Stratford. Zubin Varla's dark Romeo and Lucy Whybrow's fair Juliet fall for each other in a vintage Verona of wooden shutters and weathered plaster. The high alleys are laced with washing lines. Life is spent al fresco, although always with a nagging sense of enclosure and rapidly narrowing perspectives, pressed home by Kendra Ullyart's design.

The Montague boys turn up, in carnival mood and grotesque masks, for an open air ball in the Capulets' iron-gated courtyard. By day, bringing together the historic and the contemporary, these youths loll at pavement cafes, spasmodically swordfighting.

The costumes place us formally in the Victorian era: tailcoats and farthingales. Verona's inhabitants, in fact, look distinctly British. Darlene Johnson's blonde, coiffured Lady Capulet has the seeds of a hardly maternal Sloane. Christopher Benjamin, as Juliet's father, is the fond papa who turns swiftly into a manhandling patriarch when disobeyed.

This Anglo-Mediterranean vision questions cultural pigeonholing. It suggests constrictions lurking in Latin cultures and passionate feelings churning inside supposedly inhibited Brits. The production's emphasis is on intense adolescent emotions; behaviour veers between childish fits and adult action.

The Montague boys are public school brats. The piazza is a dangerous playground where blowing raspberries escalates into fatal stabbings. Mark Lockyer's Mercutio is a manic joker, delightfully witty but worrying; sparkily inventive but unstable. His Queen Mab fantasy overwhelms him like a bad dream. When his best friend falls in love with someone else, he fights back the tears.

When, in turn, Romeo first enters, seeing the brisk exit of his parents in the opposite direction, the diminutive Varla betrays a nervous spasm of blinking. The loss of a precious love reduces people to near-fits of rage and grief.

Or that is the idea. The disappointment, in practice, is that scarcely anyone is letting their emotions genuinely loose. Lady Capulet is only vaguely cold. Her husband is never really frighteningly violent. Romeo and Juliet's ticks and tantrums look tacked on now and then.

Varla and Whybrow, who have matured since Stratford, now speak verse with confidence. But that is not passion. The chronic problem is this: there is no chemistry between these lovers, unless you count herbal concoctions.

Still, Julian Glover's Scots Friar Lawrence is outstanding: downing a stiff espresso before picking dawn flowers; earthy, amusingly exasperated, firm, ultimately desperate. Susan Brown's Nurse, although having more social polish than humour, is refreshingly unwizened.

Romeo and Juliet get into their stride too, once forced apart and racing into the arms of death. Whybrow grows swiftly into a determined woman, disillusioned by her elders, holding on to her ideals. Romeo, poisoned, dies in real pain, ecstatically released but not even granted time for a last kiss.

KATE BASSETT

DONALD COOPER

Lucy Whybrow and Zubin Varla play the star-crossed lovers in Adrian Noble's staging of *Romeo and Juliet*

OPERA: Impressive new principals breathe fire into a Puccini night hampered by tame staging and conducting

Eye-opener still kept in the dark

Tosca
Covent Garden

THE Royal Opera's revival of *Tosca* in December was one of the most dismal nights of the season. Considerable redress is now made with the present, final run of four performances, strongly cast and with each of the three principals playing their roles here for the first time.

Anthony Michaels-Moore has sung bits of Scarpia on record but until now not the whole role on stage. From the moment in Act I when he emerges from shadows, of which there are more than enough during the evening, he scarcely puts an elegantly shod foot wrong.

His chief of police has command and also the ability to slide back into the darkness to watch Tosca flap about in church, looking for her lover. Michaels-Moore's still cherubic features take on the smug smile of the school bully while Cavaradossi is given another twist on the torturer's rack. His baritone is currently in tremendous shape, rising powerfully over the chorus in the *Te Deum* and carrying a Gobbi-like snarl. The overall aura of silken venom makes him the best Scarpia here since Samuel Ramey.

José Cura, the Argentinian tenor, has been taking on new roles and new composers for the ROH at an exceptional rate. Puccini's Cavaradossi is the latest and he sings the painter with strong, burnished tones now expected of him.

Parts like Samson may have taken a bit of the lyricism from the voice, but Cura manages very well the gentle phrasing of memories and hopes in Act III. But the victory cries of the middle act suggest that the heroic repertory will be his forte, in all senses of the word.

Cura added a nice dash of petulance in the opening scene with Tosca, remarking that he wants to get back to work and stop canoodling before the madonna. Tosca responds with equal irritation at such ungallant behaviour. She is sung by Nelly Miricioiu, a house favourite back in the 1980s and now returning after a long absence. Both voice and figure have filled out a bit, but she remains a first-class actress, flirting and cajoling and then at the end re-enacting Scarpia's death with graphic detail. Her soprano now has an east European throb, not always used to good effect. *Vissi d'arte* was taken too quietly for too long to cast its spell.

Here Edward Downes may have to take some blame. He has been opera-hopping this month, declining *Nabucco* and taking over *Tosca* from Evelino Pidò. He took an almost serene view of Puccini, choosing slow tempos, full of orchestral colour but light on drama. Perhaps he was numbed by a production which now covers much of the crucial action in darkness.

JOHN HIGGINS

Macbeth
by William Shakespeare

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Duncan ARTHUR COX Ross ROBERT DEMEGER Malcolm SEBASTIAN HARCOMBE
First Witch JANET WHITESIDE Banquo PHILIP QUAST Porter ADRIAN SCHILLER

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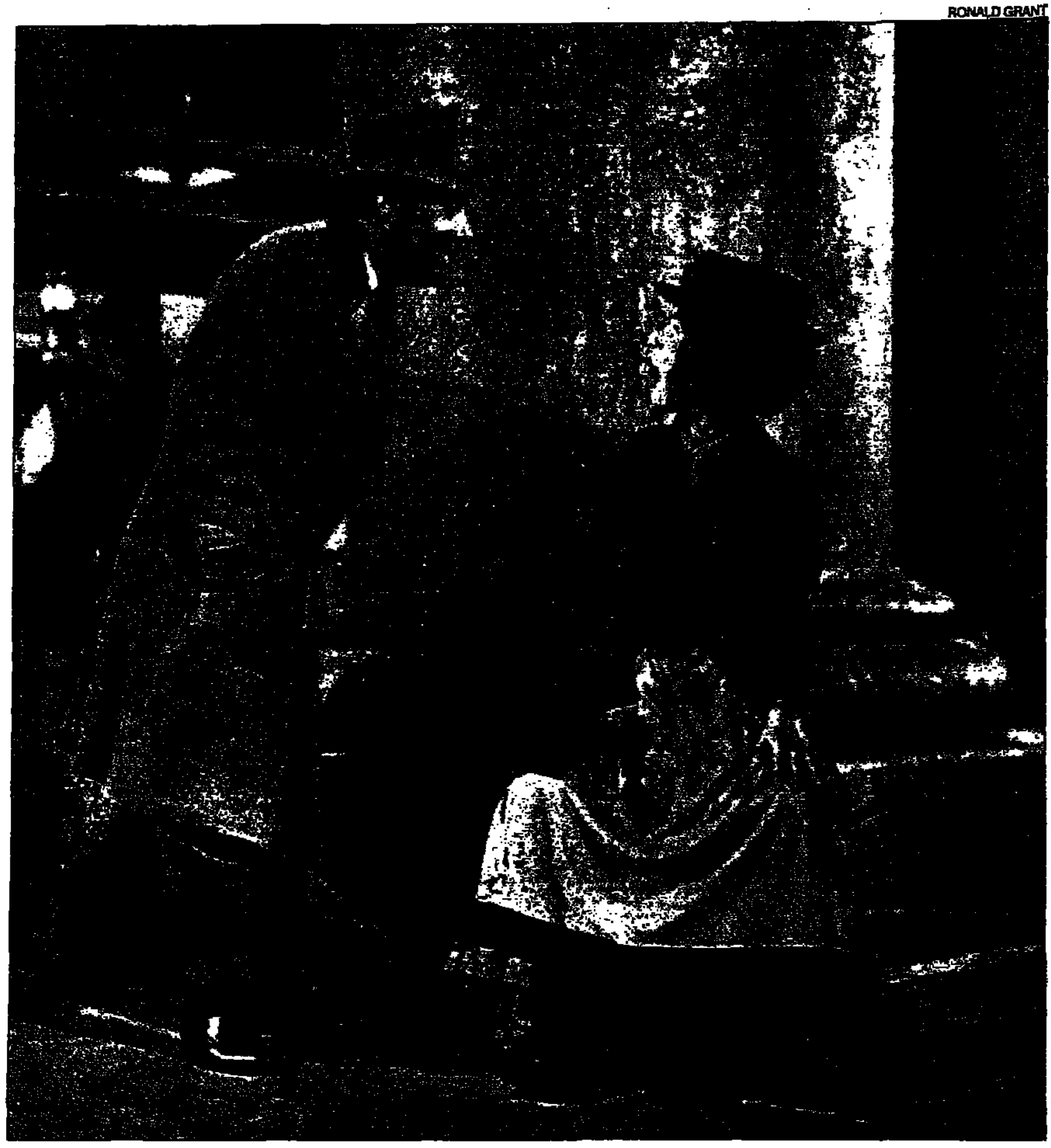
THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ENGLAND

Bullwinkle (8744355)

Superman in a Jaeger suit

Peter Ackroyd on the fund of energy that drove a genius in flight from the physical

RONALD GRANT



A fear of the feminine? Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn in *My Fair Lady* (1964), adapted from Shaw's *Pygmalion*

In this intriguing study, part biography and part sexual case history, Sally Peters has the courage to take Bernard Shaw seriously. In one of those *Maxims for Revolutionists* which preface *Man and Superman*, Shaw declared that "The unconscious self is the true genius."

In this spirit Sally Peters tries to isolate and to examine those emotions or situations of which Shaw himself might not have been aware. It is as if she were trying to bring into clear focus the invisible man who accompanied him on his great journey, but whom the artist himself refused to recognise.

She also goes on to suggest that this invisible man may even have been homosexual but the point is, perhaps, debatable. Hers is in any case a dangerous and speculative venture, as any textual scholar will tell you (if he has time to lift his nose from the page), but it is not without its rewards. It is possible that some writers are great precisely because they cannot, or will not, understand where the sources of their greatness lie.

BERNARD SHAW
The Ascent of
Superman
By Sally Peters
Yale, £18.95

The curious arrangements of Shaw's family and household during his childhood, for example, seem to have left him with the fantasy of being "a foundling"; indeed, like many great artists who manage to project some impression of their personality to the public, he was largely if not wholly self-created. In flight from his own family, he established an intimate if imaginary alternative household which included Shakespeare, Goethe and Mozart. He bartered the security of mundane and familial ties, according to this account, for the more precarious but permanent bonds of cultural inheritance.

Sally Peters is very good on the symbolic detail of that life which he preferred to forget. At the age of 16 he became a Dublin clerk, for example, and intermittently dreamt of the office for much of his life. Even the most tatty business premises can be the arena for tyranny and cowardice, and Shaw's continuing horror at his temporary confinement is a sure sign that the carapace of the successful artist in his case concealed a more frightened and awkward creature.

He was so afraid of life, in fact, that he decided to dominate it. He controlled the chaos of the world by simply treating it as the material for his art: if he moved fast or far enough, no one would ever catch him. On looking back at this "destiny" he claimed that "like Goethe, I knew all along"; but he could not have been so certain at the time.

Eventually he moved from Dublin to London, so that he might be able to recreate himself in every sense. The process of self-dramatisation began when he started to write musical criticism under an assumed name; when not scribbling down reviews in the Reading Room of the British Museum he spent his time, like any late Romantic, in studying Marx and Wagner.

He also began to read books of etiquette, but the drawing room was not his natural habitat. He was so aware of his own talent, and so frightened of its being rebuffed, that he shunned social life. He preferred to lecture in under-heated halls, or make speeches on street corners.

He wasted a great deal of time as a journalist as well (he even descended to book reviewing) but the years under the dome of the Reading Room were helpful in one sense. He was biding his time, waiting for the right moment to strike, sharpening his imagination so that it would effortlessly impale the public. A sense of occasion is necessary for genius, of course, but Shaw also possessed those two other attributes which are essential for its proper growth: he named them himself, accurately, as "irrepressible gaiety" and "a prodigous fund of vital energy". No writer should attempt to take on the world without them.

There are times when Sally Peters's fondness for psychological jargon affects her prose, but she is generally very good at describing the energetic vagaries of Shaw's ambition. His was an energy of the mind, however, and not of the body. Shaw's attitudes towards vegetarianism and alcohol, let alone his health in general, are in that sense highly significant — rooted, as they were, in his deep sense of personal threat and his disgust at the physicality of his own body. He learnt to conquer life by etherealising it and turning it into a play while at the same time he conducted his affairs, both social and romantic, as a form of drama.

In fact, like other artists who live in fear or distrust of physical being, he lived off words. In his various and always theoretical love affairs he sighed words and he cried them. In the ordinary world he was a very lean man dressed in a yellow Jaeger suit; in his letters he was a demon, a god and a Casanova. The amorous correspondence between him and Ellen Terry must constitute the longest epistolary novel since *Pamela*.

He managed the same trick with his drama since, by writing essays and "maxims" around it, he was able to fashion the very climate of opinion by which he wished to be judged. He did not only create plays, he created his critics. "Art," as Sally Peters puts it, "was a way to live on the earth while trascending it."

So he remained in all respects manipulative and apart. Was it Oscar Wilde who said that Shaw had not an enemy in the world but that none of his friends liked him? He was delicate and fastidious, shying away from any touch of flesh and hiding his fear or guilt in that mist of words which followed him everywhere. Sally Peters detects within him not so much a fear of the feminine as a fear of femininity, especially his own. In fact, one of the central arguments of this study is that Shaw was a latent or at least non-practising homosexual; certainly, in the Jaeger suit, he would have made an impractical one.

He might possibly be placed somewhere upon what is already a very long list, but the importance of such a position is a matter of debate. Not everyone is wholly convinced by what Sally Peters calls "current gay theorists".

Her book is in fact most interesting on Shaw's career and, since it is concerned with his "ascent", it is not particularly surprising that she should devote less than 30 pages to his last 50 years. Yet there may be a larger point to be made. Shaw ceased to be wholly interesting when he had created the persona which was to guide him through the rest of his life. His struggle was more significant than his victory, for in the process he found a vision of the world. Or perhaps it found him. "This is the true joy in life," as he said, "the being used for a purpose recognised by yourself as a mighty one."

From peacock to sparrow

DJUNA BARNES was an early practitioner of the celebrity interview. Her work for American magazines was admired for its wit ("If you are sharp you can catch glimpses of [Diamond Jim] Brady between his jewellery") but not always trustworthy: she belonged to that school which lunches with the subject first, and invents the conversation later. "Have you been making notes?" "I don't have to. My memory makes a paragraph out of a note automatically."

Why not put words into her subjects' mouths? Few interviewees could match her *aperçus*. Yet for years she scorned writing fiction, "things made up entirely out of thin air". And as Phillip Herring demonstrates, she could never have invented fiction more compelling and bizarre than her own life.

She was born in 1892 in a log cabin on a mountain overlooking the Hudson River. Her American father, Wald, never bothered much with making a living but took a mistress, adding five more siblings to the four Djuna already had. Her grandmother, Zadel, was a journalist, poet and advocate of free love: a progressive influence on them all. Zadel had a salon in London in the 1890s — in unlikely Shepherd's Bush — to which Oscar Wilde's mother Speranza, and Marx's daughter Tussy came.

Valerie Grove

DJUNA
The Life and Work
of Djuna Barnes
By Phillip Herring
Viking, £30

Djuna shared a bed with her grandmother and seems to have indulged in peculiar horse-play with Zadel's pendulous breasts. And it fell to Djuna to mop up after all Wald's children, which threw her off the idea of motherhood for life.

Small wonder that she grew up strange, bisexual, egocentric. She was an adventurous young journalist, willing to undertake any stunt — including being dropped from a high building into a fireman's blanket, and describing how it feels to be forcibly fed. She could turn in a clever piece on how to look decorous when found dead by suicide. She called her journalism "rubbish" but was earning $1,000 a piece by 1921.

Her early lovers were a rum lot: notably Putzi Hanfstaengl, who became Hitler's foreign press minister after the Führer heard him play the piano. He wrote marches for the Hitler Youth, but saw through the Nazi thuggery and got out. He abandoned Djuna saying he must have a German mother for his children.

By the time she arrived in Paris in the 1920s she had decided that women were better in bed: Edna St Vincent Millay was one of those sampled during her Greenwich Village days. Thelma Wood was her great passion; another was Elsa von Freytag Loringhoven, celebrated by the Dadaists and given to wearing a birdcage with live birds on her head, tin cans swinging from her nipples, and black painted lips.

In this *galère*, Djuna developed her world-weary, blasé journalism: discarding humdrum fact, she could spot the quintessence of her subject's celebrity; but she, the interviewer — chic, amusing — was the real star. The madly bohemian café society of 1920s Paris, where everyone drank a lot and wrote a bit, was hers to seize. Her writing could be vivid (Kiki de Montparnasse "raises her mandarin eyes, slanting with kohl") aphoristic ("In youth one may have been a peacock; in old age one is a sparrow") but also often impenetrable: how can a laugh sound "like a submerged French pastry shop"? Her one famous novel, *Nightwood* (1936) — "a soul talking to itself in the heart of the night", but actually a vengeful tirade on Thelma — earned her the patronage of T. S. Eliot, but her American publisher had to admit that "it is very difficult to extricate the story from the mass of brilliant but somewhat mad writing".

PEGGY GUGGENHEIM took her up and gave her an income but her decline (to age 90) was long and sad. James Joyce, an admirer, gave her unbound proofs of Ulysses, which she later sold, in poverty, to Harvard for $125. In later years Djuna wrote that she had always feared the poorhouse — reminiscent of Diana Vreeland's conviction that every woman sees herself ending her days rattling a tin can — but even as a reformed alcoholic, prone to melancholia and chronic grouchiness, she retained her snappy wit ("Do you see why women have become bitches, and harpies, and furies? Because men can go to bed with them only so.") "Keep on writing," she urged Antonia White. "It's a woman's only hope, except for lacemaking." How true.

Dizzy heights at the Hotel Cecil

Until Disraeli's 1874 election victory, intelligent observers assumed, with the Tories having lost five elections in a row, that the future of British politics would inevitably be Liberal. Yet in the 122 years since, the Conservatives have been in government for three-quarters of the time. They now rate as the most consistently successful political party in any Western democracy. In this book, Richard Shannon, Professor of Modern History at the University of Wales and author of *Crisis of Imperialism* and *The Age of Disraeli* explains why. Through a scholarly and painstaking analysis of the sources, he ascribes the startling transformation in Tory fortunes to a mixture of deliberate leadership, political accidents and what T. S. Eliot called history's "vast, impersonal forces".

Andrew Roberts

THE AGE OF
SALISBURY, 1881-1902
By Richard Shannon
Longman, £72

The leadership was provided as much by Lord Salisbury as by Disraeli. In statistical terms, Salisbury was a far more successful Conservative leader than his predecessor, forming three governments lasting 14 years compared to Disraeli's two lasting six.

But whereas Salisbury gave the electorate reassurance, integrity, a growing empire and genuine candour, Dizzy offered wit, style and stardust. Salisbury had an identifiable political philosophy but Disraeli created a myth, and as Shannon points out, as a result "Disraeli dead was more important for his career than Disraeli alive".

Dead, Disraeli could be the advocate of Tory democracy; alive he did all in his power to promote aristocratic government and stymie the burgeoning National Union, advocate of true Tory democracy.

Dead, he could inspire the Primrose League, established in 1883 in his memory and which numbered 1.5 million people by the century's end, many of them working class men and women; alive he could only offer paltry acts of social reform to halt progress.

Dead, Disraeli could be the Suez Canal-buying, India Empressing, Crystal Palace speechifying Earl of Beaconsfield, but had he survived he would have had to face the sober realities of German and American long-term threats to British supremacy.

These instead had to be dealt with by Salisbury, who while paying all necessary lip service to the Dizzy myth, spent his 17 years as party leader producing solid achievements greater than those his old Chief managed, for all his genius at prestidigitation. "There never was much uplift to be had from Salisbury," argues Shannon, whose book concentrates mainly on domestic politics.

Shannon ascribes the emergence of the new suburban "Villa Toryism" to Salisbury's psephological genius during the struggles over parliamentary reform in 1884-85. Salisbury's Conservative Party stood, not for nebulous Disraelian "uplift", but for respectability, individual rights, social mobility, the rule of law, a market-driven economy and non-collectivist social betterment of the people — a platform that has served the party well for over a century.

The modern perception of Salisbury as heavy and humourless could not be further from the truth. It was certainly a dry, intellectual, even cynical English wit, but it is still funny today. Indeed, Salisbury has the power genuinely to amuse long after some of Disraeli's more contrived witticisms have palled.

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

Salisbury uniting the nation: this patriotic cartoon by Tom Merry appeared in *St Stephen's Review*, 1891

Shannon correctly identifies Lord Randolph Churchill as a dangerous demagogue, who Salisbury had to defeat if he was to preserve the aristocratic cousinhood which ruled Tory politics from the machinations of the National Union caucus. A Churchill victory would have led to directly-elected party leaders and eventually the end of limited government.

That Salisbury was able so to stuff his post-1900 government with relations that it was nicknamed the Hotel Cecil, and then pass on the premiership itself to his nephew Arthur Balfour, is testament to the scale of his victory over Churchill. Shannon is left aghast at the naked nepotism but prefers it to the Churchill alternative.

It is clear that professor Shannon has thought deeply over many years about the impact Lord Salisbury made on Tory politics. He describes the party Salisbury built as "the best representative in British politics of the cultural and political values of the Victorian bourgeois world", and as such a fine counter balance to the forces of totalitarianism of this century. The excellent *Longman History of the Conservative Party*, spanning the period 1830-1975 is, after many years, almost complete. Shannon's two contributions have been central to the project, showing how the party Disraeli called an "Organised Hypocrisy" became a formidable election winner.

Andrew Roberts is writing the authorised life of Lord Salisbury

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ROSAMUNDE PILCHER
COMING HOME
HER SPELLBINDING NEW NOVEL
HER NEW NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER
CORONET – A MEMBER OF THE HODDER HEADLINE GROUP

A matter of consent

Many readers may be daunted when faced with *Carnal Knowledge*: 250 pages about rape — rape by strangers, friends, relatives and husbands, in war, gang rape and at the end of it all a system where most rapists are apparently never brought to justice.

It is an uncomfortable, but an important and serious book. Sue Lees, a professor at the University of North London, has studied rape thoroughly. She uses the findings of three research studies: 31 rape trials were analysed and 116 victims of rape or attempted rape were questioned.

The results are disturbing. Rape victims suffer guilt and shame. Many cannot go out or have normal relationships. Some cannot stop scrubbing themselves. Many lose all their confidence. One in five of the women were virgins at the time of the rape and most were raped by men they knew.

The research disposes of many stereotypes. The press will normally depict rapists as loners or psychopaths: but they are usually acquaintances, not strangers. They are not more likely to be black or to come from any particular class, or to be noticeably different; they usually seem normal and often charming. Their distinguishing feature is their extreme, hostile attitude to women.

Sue Lees's thesis is that most rape victims in Britain get little redress. "I have been left to rot by society and no one helped me," one woman said. The number of women reporting rape has doubled since 1985. Police handling of rape complainants has greatly improved. Yet the conviction rate is falling. About 8.4 per cent of reported cases result in a conviction. Many cases are dropped.

The adversarial justice system, where the objective is not to reach the truth but to win, is at its most flawed in these cases of interpersonal private violence. In most rape trials the question is not whether or not the act took place but whether or not the woman consented to it. To prove that she consented the defence must show her to be a liar and of dubious reputation. Legal measures brought in to stop a woman's past life and sexual history being used to damage her credibility have not succeeded.

BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY

Brutal: Goya's *Scenes from the Spanish War* (c 1810)

Vivien Stern

CARNAL
KNOWLEDGE
By Sue Lees
Hamish Hamilton, £20

So women who take the decision to report rape are subjected to vicious questioning by the defence in order to discredit them and prove consent. How much have they had to drink? Have they (if they are white) had relationships in the past with black men? Is their underwear transparent? Their knickers are displayed in the courtroom, handled with rubber gloves.

If they seem calm and cool in court it will be suggested that they must be lying. If it had really been rape they would be more upset. If they are upset it will be suggested they are hysterical and not to be believed. An absence of injuries suggests they did not struggle enough, even though they may have had a knife at their throats. One judge set out his view of how women provoke rape: by the clothes they wear, drinking a lot, dancing provocatively, going back to a defendant's flat, being out late, asking the defendant back to their home, taking drugs and soliciting.

The credibility of the male defendants, on the other hand, is assessed on their profession, their lack of a previous criminal record and their social standing. No questions are asked about their past life or their drinking habits.

The press often presents the view that women alleging rape are making malicious allegations to get revenge or cover up a sexual encounter. This book makes it clear how unlikely this is. It is hard enough for genuine victims to get their case to court.

Sue Lees has some proposals for reform. She welcomes the 1991 decision that rape can take place in marriage. She wants to see a legal definition of consent based on an idea of mutually negotiated sexual relations. She asks, "Who represents the woman?" Certainly not the prosecution, which represents the state. More women judges would help, as would more judicial training.

These are worthy proposals in the short term. But the book is asking two deeper questions. Is the adversarial justice system the best we could have? And what are we to do about the violence that provides so many young men with their only role and identity?

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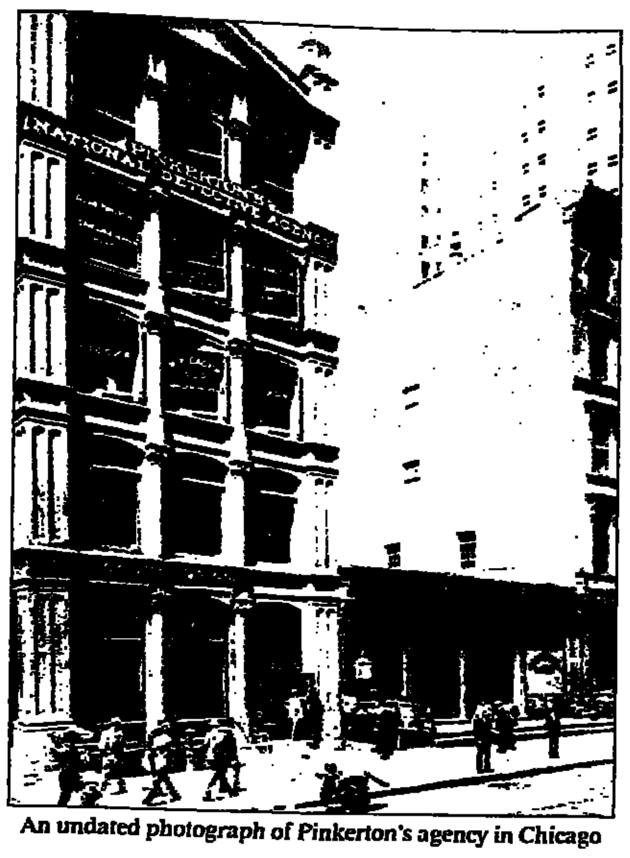

An undated photograph of Pinkerton's agency in Chicago

Ben Macintyre on Allan Pinkerton, the dogged, bullying Scot who was America's first private eye

In the name of the law

Hollywood owes an incalculable debt to Allan Pinkerton, the Scottish-born founder of the great American detective agency and the granddaddy of gumshoes.

As the first "private eye", a term that evolved from his motto "We Never Sleep" below the image of an open eye, Pinkerton and his men were responsible for waging war on some of the most notorious outlaws in post-bellum America, from Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid to the James Brothers. The Pinkertons also set up the first military intelligence gathering service during the Civil War and established the closest thing to an American Scotland Yard.

But while many of Pinkerton's adversaries have become picaresque legends, the detective himself remains a largely unknown and deeply controversial figure.

An inspired detective and upholder of law and liberty, Pinkerton was also a rather repellent man, a bully, a prig and, all too often, a thundering bore.

James Alexander Mackay, the award-winning biographer of Robert Burns, is the first historian to attempt to shade in both the darker and lighter sides of Pinkerton and the result is the tightest and most reliable account so far, a portrait of a man at once deeply admirable and quite obnoxious.

Filleting out the real Allan Pinkerton is no easy task, despite the vast quantity of documentary material stored at the Pinkerton archive in California, for in addition to his talents as a sleuth, the detective was a master of public relations who churned out no fewer than 18 books running to more than three million words in total. Most were penned by ghost-writers, many are factually dubious and all are egregiously self-flattering.

Born into grim Gorbals poverty in 1819, the young Pinkerton was a militant Chartist who fled Scotland (and possible prosecution) to set himself up as a cooper in Illinois. There he became, in quick succession, an amateur snooper, a detective in the Chicago police and finally the head of a company that coordinated a vast worldwide network of detective agents and hunted down crime of all sorts.

ALLAN PINKERTON
The Eye Who Never Slept
By James Mackay
Mainstream, £20

Dogged, energetic and ridiculously brave, Pinkerton was a fierce opponent of slavery and an active stationmaster in the underground railroad, smuggling slaves to freedom in Canada. With the outbreak of war he became Lincoln's spy-master, running agents into Confederate territory and exposing treachery within the Washington political elite.

Pinkerton's tools may now seem obvious — the methodical accumulation of evidence, detailed criminal records and a reputation for unshakeable honesty — but at a time when the forces of law and order were criminally inefficient, and often actively criminal, he was a glaring, self-promoting exception.

But Pinkerton was also an anti-crime crusader, propelled by an unswerving faith in his own moral rectitude.

"I feel no power on earth is able to check me, no power in Heaven or Hell can influence me when I know I am in the right," he once wrote. As far as can be ascertained, there was never a single occasion on which he believed himself to be in the wrong.

Like most zealots, Pinkerton was at heart a moral bully and the most valuable and novel aspects of Mr Mackay's biography lie in its exposure of the psychological puritanism that drove his lust for upholding the law. The author does his best to endear his subject, but he is too honest to hide the picture of a sanctimonious egotist who was often cruel and domineering to his family, autocratic towards his employees and insufferably pleased with himself.

Having made his fortune and reputation, Pinkerton built himself a grand estate in Illinois with 85,000 imported Scottish larches, a retinue of black flunkies in blue uniforms and murals of Civil War heroics. From here he continued to run his agency with a wrathful rod of iron. He died in 1884, celebrated by some, loathed by many and irascible to the last.

Pinkerton's estate is now a ruin; but the Pinkerton Detective Agency has become a security firm with 250 offices around the world and 50,000 employees which, among other tasks, arranges security at the Oscar night ceremonies.

The heroic outlaw, the romantic bandit with the heart of gold, is a staple and nourishing myth of popular American culture. But Allan Pinkerton, who unintentionally furnished Hollywood with some of its best tales, was exactly the reverse: a man who made conformity to the law into his religion, and whose heart was carved from the coldest Scottish granite.

Ben Macintyre's forthcoming book, The Napoleon of Crime, *is a biography of Adam Worth, one of the Pinkertons' most celebrated quarries*

Still dancing to the music of time

Derwent May is charmed by the diaries of a writer whose recollections reflect his own life and his fictional creations

HERBIE KNOTT

From literary lunches to dentistry, Anthony Powell is a writer able to convey the alluring rhythm of day-to-day life: the author at home in Somerset, 1985

Anthony Powell was 90 last December, and does not stir much now from his house in Somerset, where he lives with his wife Violet. But his mind and imagination are as alert as when, over a period of 25 years from his forties to his sixties, he wrote his great comedy about that swath of English life where society intermingles with Bohemia, *A Dance to the Music of Time*.

This is the second volume of his diaries to be published, and it is both startling and delightful to find how similar the flavour of them is to the flavour of *Dance* (as he calls it). In the novel sequence, the polar opposites around which the whole panorama revolves are the glorious comic figure of Widmerpool, who is pure will-to-power without a trace of human understanding, and Nick, the narrator, who seems to see everything, and in a wholly natural way to be present whenever anything interesting is happening.

JOURNALS 1987-1989
By Anthony Powell
Heinemann, £20

Powell may not move far from Somerset in these journals, yet like Nick, with his observations and his memories — and now his abundant hospitality, always giving lunch to visitors — he brings another fascinating world into being about him.

He goes to the doctor's for a tetanus booster. "Tetanus Booster would be a good name for a US Senator, probably a Southerner," he thinks. (That "probably a Southerner" is the authentic note of Nick.) He reads a biography of John Betjeman, and memories crowd in — how when Betjeman was staying at the house of Powell's sister-in-law, Lady Mary Clive, before it was "on the grid", he insisted on being driven to the nearest house with electricity so that he could use his electric razor. That reminds him in turn that Betjeman had once made a passionate speech against electric carillons in churches. "What a hypocrite that man is," Ronald Knox had commented.

The novelist Vidia Naipaul comes to lunch. (An extra piquancy is added to the diaries, of course, by the fact that all its characters are real and many well-known.) What Powell records from his conversation is just the kind of unexpected remark Nick would have noted with casual delight: when Naipaul made a speech in America after collecting a literary prize, he was "a shade disappointed he had not managed to bore more acutely an audience of rich businessmen". There is the fastidious Naipaul in a nutshell.

Robert Conquest comes to lunch on his visits from America and this always brings up thoughts of their friend Philip Larkin. Conquest tells him that among scabrous elements in Larkin's letters there are "odds and ends of fladge". Powell shrewdly anticipates what the reaction will be when the letters are published. The savage remarks about each other in the letters of Larkin, Conquest and Kingsley Amis are "probably acceptable within circle of three old friends as satire that will be understood, but rather different when offered to general public including malicious journalists".

Books do furnish a diary, and one constantly interesting theme in this one is Powell's comments on his reading. He goes through Shakespeare, and notices that Fluellen, laying down the law on military matters in *Henry V*, "is exactly like Horace Probert, my Company Commander in the 1/5th Welch". He wonders if Lewis Carroll's King of Hearts, replying to the Mad Hatter's "I'm a poor man" with "You're certainly a very poor speaker", was not inspired by Parolles, in *All's Well That Ends Well*, saying he is a poor man and a courtier observing that he is a "naughty orator".

He rereads Lawrence's *Women in Love*. It reminds him that the wife of Boris Christov, the real-life original of Lawrence's *Libidnikov*, once worked in a bookshop, and when she was asked "Have you a copy of *Prometheus Unbound*?" replied "No, but I'm almost sure I've seen a bound copy on the shelves."

On contemporary writers he tends to be rather tart — a trace, perhaps of the vinegar of rivalry. That is not to be found in Nick — but, after all, there is a touch of Widmerpool in everyone. The tartness is better used in his attack on two television programmes, one on Evelyn Waugh, one on *Writers and the War*, for which he had been interviewed. His comments reflect exactly what Matthew Parris was saying in *The Spectator* last week: documentaries are simply "plays written by the producer, those who appear in them actors who speak the lines, which are cut, if not what producer wants".

In the end, though, it is something more than all these delectable items that makes these diaries such an alluring read: Powell's day-to-day life just draws one into its rhythm. You get concerned about the fate of his lower plate, which is continually driving him to the dentist. You get interested in Henry the cockerel, who comes from nowhere and installs himself in the dentist's yard, and "taps on windows where secretaries sit, sulking when his breakfast is late".

Food and wine consumed are also regularly noted, with Powell himself cooking many curries for guests, and much good claret drunk. In fact, you get much more concerned than Powell does that he should get a good lunch when he and his family go out to eat in Frome — and that when he visits Roy Jenkins, he should get a bottle worthy of his host's reputation. He does.

Too many cooks poison the soup

The defeat of Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister in 1990 has already become the subject of some self-justifying memoirs, not least from the lady herself. Philip Hensher's intriguing, if inchoate, second novel offers an alternative viewpoint: that of a House of Commons clerk, a post occupied by three of the novel's protagonists, John, Henry and Louis and, until recently, by the author himself.

This below-stairs view of great events offers fascinating detail about the workings of the Commons: its labyrinthine corridors, arcane customs and mundane procedures. Its portrait of the relationship between clerks and MPs neatly complements that between civil servants and ministers, familiar from *Yes Minister*. What it does not do is offer any new insight into the drama's central figure. The description of the Prime Minister listening to Geoffrey Howe's resignation speech, or of Louis encountering her in the division lobby contains nothing beyond the popular image of her ferrous self-confidence and regal sex appeal.

Michael Arditti

KITCHEN VENOM
By Philip Hensher
Hamish Hamilton, £16

This, in turn, relates to the broader problem of the narrative voice. Although the bulk of the book is written in the third person, a stray reference to "the beauty of women like, and unlike, me" can hardly be a reference to the bearded portrait on the jacket. At times — notably at the beginning and end — the narrator appears to be Mrs Thatcher. A dream is described in which she reads the word "omniscient". And yet the idea of the Prime Minister as an all-knowing narrator remains no more than a literary conceit. Even were she privy to the goings-on in rent-boys' bedrooms, it is unlikely that she would describe them in such detail and with such sympathy. Nor does it seem credible that Mrs Thatcher's speculations on the aetiology of homosexuality ever centred on the films of Douglas Sirk.

The confusion extends to the fictional time of writing (it appears to be ten years in the future) and to the prose style. This is a mixture of the impersonality of parliamentary reports, the cadences of the Authorised Version of the Bible ("At this time there was an attempt to write down the words of men, and it was called Hansard") and the flip dismissal of camp ("The next day the House was recalled; there was a war or something.") Far more successful is the dialogue, which is sharp and genuinely quirky, particularly as spoken by John's two daughters, Francesca and Jane.

The familial eccentricity recalls the work of Ivy Compton-Burnett just as the political milieu inevitably does Trollope (significantly, these are two authors to whom reference is made in the text). Although Hensher fails to synthesise them or, indeed, to link political and domestic venom on any but a basic level, it is his portrait of sibling rivalry that carries the sharpest sting.

SATURDAY BOOKS

Tunku Varadarajan on the memoirs of Phoolan Devi, left, India's 'Bandit Queen'
Plus: Elizabeth Buchan on Joanna Trollope's latest novel, *Next of Kin*

The perils of impersonation

Rachel Cusk

KRAVEN IMAGES
By Alan Isler
Cape, £14.99

Alan Isler's first novel, *The Prince of West End Avenue*, was a comic set-piece, located in a Manhattan residential home for elderly Jews. Once set up, it could almost have written itself; a mark not of a deficiency of literary imagination, but rather of its author's almost mathematical understanding of it. Isler was until recently an English professor in America, and it shows. Having started his own literary career late in life, his fictional voice is tempered by an academic supra-consciousness which exerts an occasionally suffocating control over the proceedings.

Kraven Images returns to the themes Isler staked out in his first novel: the comedy of institutions (this time an American university), sex, superannuation and the psychological darkness of the diaspora generation. This last is deeply felt; but where Saul Bellow permits the clot of the Holocaust to proceed with fatal stealth through the arteries of a novel, Isler tries vainly to apprehend it.

The tidiness of his fiction is essentially in conflict with this great stain: its light-heartedness rejects, almost viscerally, the graft of horror. Isler in fact has much more in common with David Lodge than with Bellow, with whom he is fated superficially to be compared. The risqué erudition, the unrepentant masculinity, the playfulness bordering on farce, are here shot through with glimpses of a more troubled sensibility.

Kraven Images probes, amid the contrivances of a comic plot, some of what are ostensibly Isler's own experiences: a wartime childhood spent in England, a move as a young man to American academe, a return many years later to settle in London. Into these wanderings is introduced the notion of impersonation, in the form of Nicholas Kraven and his ne'er-do-well cousin Marko. Nicholas, a clever boy of slender means, is importuned by his idle, richer cousin to sit his exams for him, in exchange for the promise of funds to allow Nicholas eventually to go to university. When Marko reneges and instead goes to university himself, Nicholas continues to moonlight on his behalf, apparently for the love of it, writing all his essays and finally even his PhD thesis. Marko abruptly dies and Nicholas decides after much diligent agonising to take up on false (but not *that* false) pretences the lecturing job Marko had been offered at Mosholu College in the Bronx.

Isler: a troubled sensibility

We take up his story some years later, when Nicholas is entrenched in late middle-age and has carried off his deception to the point of becoming an academic cliché: disillusioned, salacious, envious of the success of others. He is also selfish, dishonest and cruel, having apparently taken on more than one aspect of Marko's identity. This is Isler's way of showing how easy it is to become someone you never set out to be; and how, too, the émigré can incur the loss not just of a sense of place, but of family, morality and self.

With nothing to shore him up, Nicholas's craven instincts flourish unchecked. He maintains an affair with his neighbour's wife, tries to seduce a young student and passes off another student's discoveries as his own, all the while compiling a volume of his own burlesque verse amusingly entitled *Tickety-Boo*. Things come, naturally enough, to a head and he is forced to return to England, there to face his inevitable demons.

Isler evidently likes a grand finale, but it takes a brave man to end a novel with his anti-hero sitting weeping at the completion of his own rite of passage. There is another, better book beneath the surface of *Kraven Images*, one which might make its readers weep instead: and should he ever tire of his love of the fantastical, Isler will undoubtedly write it.

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Early test for Italian leaders

The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

In the past few years, the great Italian cities have been almost submerged under a tide of tourists. Groups of Japanese, Americans, Germans, British, French and, increasingly, Russians shuffle after their guides — brightly coloured umbrellas held high — around the sites of Rome, Florence and Venice.

Around them surge milling masses of teenagers from continental Europe. Together they are an almost intolerable burden on cities which have withstood the ravages of centuries.

The Italians have, perhaps, allowed themselves to become rather blasé about their historical monuments. Whether it is the Duomo in Florence or the Colosseum in Rome, there are unmistakable signs that successive governments have spent too little keeping them in the best of condition.

In the centre of Rome, for example, is one of the world's most ancient sports arenas. The Circo Massimo — where chariots used to race nearly 2,000 years ago — is now unkempt and litter-strewn. Archaeologically important ruins stand neglected and surrounded by an ugly fence.

It does not require a town-planning expert to see how the circus could be linked to the Colosseum, the Palatine and the Forum in one cultural area. It would need to be a well-kept, signposted site free from coaches.

Italy is experiencing a surge in tourism beyond its wildest expectations. You cannot blame tour operators for meeting that demand and for obtaining the best possible deals. Thomson, for example, charges British holidaymakers £589 a person for an eight-day trip to Rome and Florence, staying in four-star hotels and including flights, transfers and breakfast. At the cheaper end, a three-day break in Rome is advertised in Thomson's City Breaks brochure for £219.

Russians pay less, and the swirling crowds of teenagers less still. Is it any wonder the world is beating a path to Rome and other Italian cities when such bargains are available?

The question confronting the new Italian Government is how visitors can be both welcomed and controlled. It will be pressed to find a way during the European Union summit, in Florence in June, when buildings now being cleaned should be free of their scaffolds and shrouds.

The world of tourism will be hoping that the newly elected leaders will have the wisdom and the cash to do the right thing.

Bargains of the week — from trips abroad and round Britain to special deals on hotels, ferries and flights

HOLIDAYS

SPECIAL offers to Turkey this week include a week's bed and breakfast in Fethiye and return flights from £240 per person from Accommodation Overseas. Departures on May 3 and 10. Details: 0181-977 2984.

■ A ROOM-ONLY arrangement for a week in Turkey is available for even less, £149, from Page & Moy, with flights from Gatwick on May 7. Details: 0116-250 7116.

■ WATERCOLOUR painting holidays in May, led by respected artists, are available to European destinations from Simply Travel and include a fortnight in Turkey from May 5 for £785 per person including half-board and flights. Details: 0181-995 3883.

■ BULB-FIELD breaks to Amsterdam from £219 per person are being offered by Crystal Cities until May 22. Prices include return flights from Heathrow, two nights B&B and a visit to Keukenhof Gardens. Details: 0181-390 9900.

■ A FREE hire car with every villa booked during May and early June is being offered by Club Pollensa Holidays, which specialises in private accommodation in the north of Majorca. Weekly villa rentals start from £335 in May. Details: 01903 230128.

■ HARLEQUIN Worldwide Travel is lopping £100 off holidays to Spice Island Inn, Grenada, for midweek departures from May 1 to July 19. A suite for a week with half-board and flights costs £1,026 per person. Details: 01708 852780.

■ GOA for a fortnight for £339 per person is available from Advantage Travel Centres with a flight from Gatwick on May 2 and room-only accommodation. Details: 0171-323 3408.

■ TWO weeks for the price of one at a beach resort in Kenya is on offer from Somak Holidays with prices for half-board starting at £399 per person. The offer lasts from May 5 to 26 with flights from Gatwick to Mombasa. Details: 0181-423 3000.

■ MALTA Direct Travel is offering a week's bed and breakfast at the Continental Hotel, Msida, and return flights from Gatwick for £199 per person, a £40 saving, with departures on May 6 and 13. Details: 0181-785 3233.

Road to Istanbul: late bargains to Turkey are among the special deals this week

FLIGHTS

ALITALIA is launching a new daily service to Florence from Gatwick on May 1 with introductory fares of £175 for economy and £415 for business class. Details: 0171-602 7111.

■ IBERIA Airlines has a new fare for those wanting to combine a visit to Barcelona or Madrid with a resort holiday. A round trip from London or Manchester to Ibiza and Madrid starts from £209. Details: 0171-830 0011.

■ MEMBERS of British Airways Executive Club can receive discounts of up to 30 per cent on excursion fares to all destinations. Bookings must be made by May 17 for outbound travel before June 15. Details: 01793 542114.

■ QANTAS and British Airways are charging from £699 for peak season travel to Australia. To qualify, you must book before May 31 and travel on selected dates between November and March. Details: 0345 222111.

■ DISCOUNTED Virgin Atlantic transatlantic tickets are being marketed by Travel Warehouse. Depart before April 30 and a return trip to New York costs £195 and San Francisco £240. Details: 0171-414 8808.

FERRIES

HOVERSPEED is selling peak-season departures through a broker, Eurodrive, at up to 60 per cent off brochure prices. A £129 fare is quoted on Dover-Calais, £99 on Folkestone-Boulogne for travel until October 31. All fares apply to a car and up to five passengers. Details: 0181-324 4000.

■ SEA FRANCE has rushed in a £40 fare for Dover-Calais five-day returns during April, valid for a car and up to nine passengers. Book 48 hours in advance. Details: 01304 204204.

■ P&O European Ferries is offering day trips throughout the year for £19 per car plus £4 per passenger on Dover-Calais (£29 on Saturdays). Details: 0990 980980.

■ STENA Line has short-stay offers until May 22 on all its routes, including Fishguard-Rosslare for £94 for a car and five passengers. Details: 0990 707070.

■ SWANSEA Cork Ferries is promoting three festivals for seafood lovers during May with special fares across the Irish Sea. Fares start at £135 for weekend returns, £149 for mid-week fares. Details: 01792 456116.

HOTELS

LEARN to drive in a weekend at the Blackwell Grange Hotel in Darlington. For £224 a person, you get two nights' half-board, up to 12 hours of qualified instruction and discounts on further lessons if needed. Details: 01325 509955.

■ AUDLEYS Wood, a Grade II-listed country house hotel on the edge of the Hampshire Downs, is holding a series of murder mystery weekends hosted by a former police detective using real-life detection methods. Price is £155 a person for two nights, including meals and wine at dinner. Details: 01256 817555.

■ STAY FOR two weeks and pay for one at the Round Hill resort on Jamaica's north coast for £950 per person including flights and transfers. Details from Elegant Resorts: 01244 897888.

■ VISIT Stapley Water Gardens, which claim to be the world's largest water gardens with more than an acre of tropical pond, when staying on a weekend break at the Stoke-on-Trent Moat House. Price is £55 per person for one night's accommodation, half-board, including entry to Stapley. Details: 01782 609988.

■ THE RITZ Hotel restaurant reopens tomorrow after extensive refurbishment. A new three-course lunch costs £28 per person. Details: 0171-493 8181.

■ BAGPIPE lessons and a guide to enjoying more than 60 whiskies are some of the activities on offer at Perthshire's premier country house hotel, Kinnaird. Room rates start at £200 a night, including full Scottish breakfast. Details: 01796 482440.

■ HARTWELL House near Aylesbury, part of the Historic House Hotels consortium, is offering two-day summer breaks starting this Sunday until October 13. Price is £117 per person per night, including dinner and entry to nearby Blenheim Palace or other local historic properties. Details: 01296 747444.

■ HIGHBULLEN Hotel in north Devon is offering residential fishing courses for beginners and those with more experience from £52.50 to £80 per person per night, including dinner. A 10 per cent discount applies for stays of four nights or more until the end of May. Details: 01769 540561.

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France cuts prices to lure British

By Tony Dawe and Steve Keenan

CROSS-CHANNEL ferry companies are discounting their fares, camping operators to France are cutting prices and Parisian hotels are offering special rates as the travel industry strives to combat the continuing decline in British visitors to France.

Industry leaders hope that the special offers will draw Britons across the Channel despite the poor exchange rate and prospects of another hot summer at home. They accept, however, that many will continue to delay booking in the hope of better deals.

Many tour operators to France are reporting a drop of 30 per cent in bookings this year after a flat 1995, when nine million Britons visited France. But some sections of the industry have noticed a slight upturn in interest. P&O European Ferries says its ships carried more cars on the Dover-Calais service this Easter than last and that this month's bookings for summer have risen. Ian Todd of P&O says: "We are now forecasting only an 8 per cent drop in business on the cross-Channel routes this year, which will be a good result, considering the tunnel is in full operation."

P&O and Stena are offering discounts on brochure prices this summer and tour operators are seizing on them to promote cut-price deals.

French Country Camping this week reduced prices by up to 38 per cent, making two weeks' camping in Aquitaine from May 17 available for a family of six for £185, compared with £298 in its brochure. The company is also reducing the number of sites available. Mark Hammerton, its managing director, says: "In the past few weeks we have seen an upturn, but it is not going to be a good year."

Sunsites has also reduced prices by up to 25 per cent in high season, cutting the cost of a two-week mobile-home holiday in the Vendée in August from £1,400 to £1,046, and Canvas Holidays is also offering £300 off packages booked by May 31.

Paris hotels also started a big marketing campaign this week, including tactical price promotions, as occupancy in the first two months of the year fell to 56 per cent, from 61 per cent for the same period last year. Some 131 hotels have joined with Utell International, the reservations agency, in the promotion, which will last throughout the year, including the summer.

Elizabeth Powell, of the French Tourist Office in London, says: "We are still looking at a 15 to 20 per cent fall in our business this year. Short breaks are doing well but people are not committing themselves to booking summer holidays."

Threat to airline loyalty schemes

By Harvey Elliott

FREQUENT-FLYER loyalty programmes, which enable many business travellers to take free holiday flights, could be phased out, a leading travel academic said this week.

As more airlines set up their own schemes, so the value of the programmes in attracting new business is diminished, says Allan Beaver, a lecturer at Surrey University who carried out an extensive survey of frequent-flyer schemes.

He says: "The FFP (frequent flyer programme) phenomenon could collapse just as quickly as the trading stamps era passed in the UK."

There are now more than 120 million members of 80 FFPs around the world with many belonging to several schemes, he says in the new issue of the academic publication *Tourism Economics*.

In America, where frequent-flyer programmes are particularly popular, some flights are full for months ahead in the summer, particularly to resorts such as Hawaii.

"Only half of European business travellers have redeemed their awards," he says, "although 97 per cent state that they intend to at some time in the future."

Even the most senior management in international airlines now admit that FFPs are likely to diminish in the future, with 94 per cent of those surveyed agreeing that airlines would gradually increase the emphasis on service "until a point is reached where FFPs become indistinguishable from airline clubs".

Up to 10 per cent of passengers are now travelling free, but as the world moves out of recession and load factors rise, the demand for the seats will exceed the ability of the airlines to supply the free seats.

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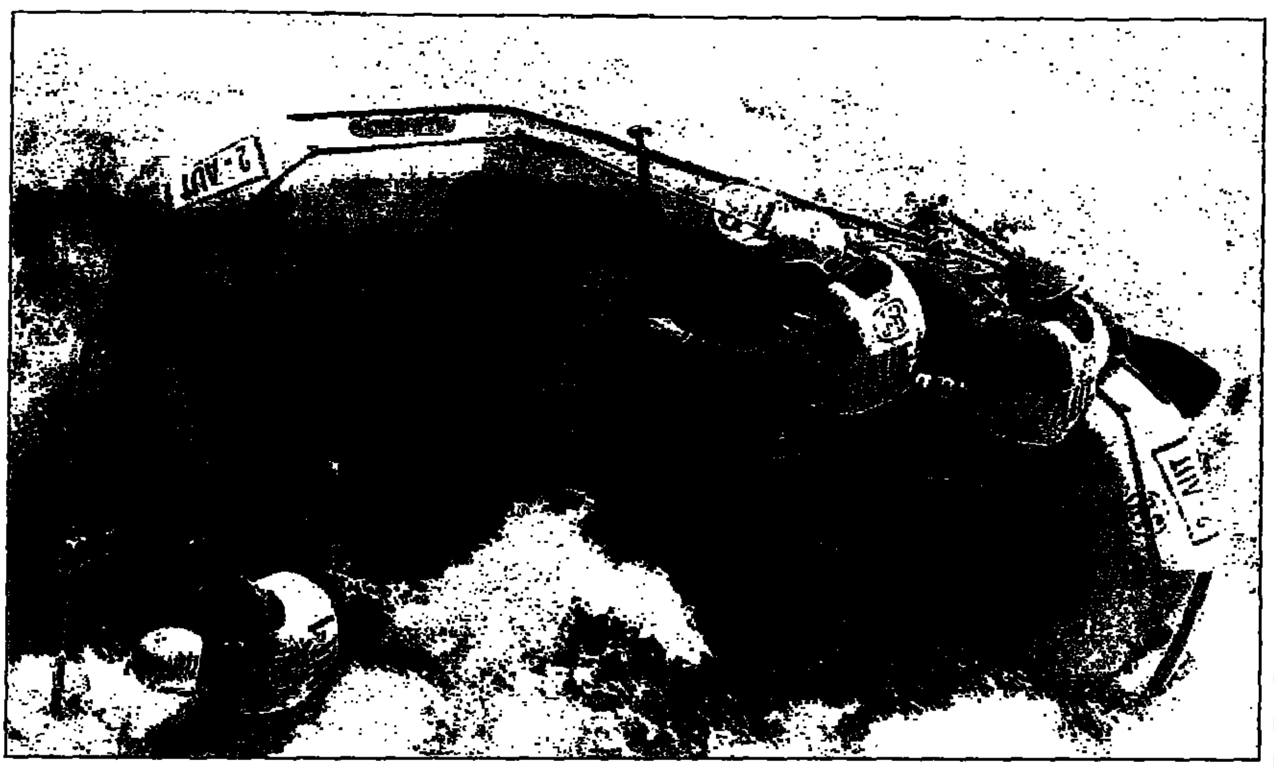


Whitewater rafting, one of the vigorous holiday activities that lure tourists to out-of-the-way places

Launch of the adventurer's guide

THE growing number of tourists seeking challenging trips in out-of-the-way places will be well served by the launch today of Adventure Holidays Worldwide, *a guide to 18 activities and 50 countries where energetic breaks can be taken, Tony Dawe writes.*

The list ranges from dog-sledging in Greenland with Arctic Experience to whitewater rafting on the Zambezi with Mountain Travel Sobek. It also reflects the increasing interest in less rugged adventures, which will be highlighted in a speech at today's launch by Derek Moore, the operations director of Explore Worldwide, the largest UK adventure holiday company.

He has spotted a trend towards "soft adventures", such as trekking from hut to hut in northern Scandinavia and driving from lodge to lodge on safari in Africa, and towards cultural adventures in countries such as Yemen.

James Ogilvie, the guide's author, defines an adventure holiday as "one which contains an element of personal challenge through controlled risk ... often in a wilderness or remote area".

- Adventure Holidays Worldwide *(In Print, £10.95)*

Lunn Poly carries on discounting

By Harvey Elliott

DESPITE a growing shortage of peak summer holidays, Britain's biggest travel agency is to continue to offer an across-the-board 10 per cent discount — the first time such big price cuts have continued after Easter.

However, Lunn Poly, which has 800 shops and a 27 per cent share of the market, is aiming to maintain its lead over its high-street rivals.

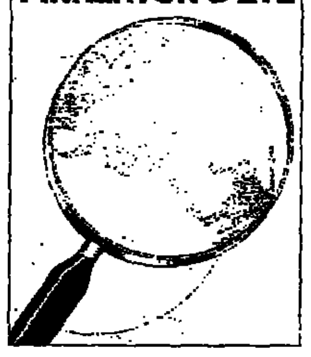
Peter Povey, marketing director, said tour operators had drastically reduced the number of holidays on sale this year and there was already a shortage of the best hotels in the school holidays.

"Even, I couldn't get the hotel of my choice in Florida in July," he said. "We believe these discounts will encourage people to book with us, whoever they used last year."

Customers will have the choice of a straight 10 per cent discount on any holiday, plus even bigger discounts on selected brochures, free travel insurance or a "book now pay later" instalment scheme.

Tony Bennett, marketing director of Going Places, said he would not be following suit: "We will, however, watch them closely to see how long these discounts can continue."

PINKERTON'S EYE



A MONTHLY column supplied by the worldwide security and detection agency:

HIGH RISK

A BOMB has been ruled out as the cause of last Saturday's Delhi hotel collapse, but **India** is considered a high-risk area. Two groups, Harkat-ul-Momineen and the Khalistan Liberation Force, are determined to stop the May elections in Jammu and Kashmir. There have also been ambushes of military and police personnel in north-east India. In **Pakistan** Islamic fundamentalists last week threatened US Consulate staff. **Israel** remains high-risk as Hamas reiterates its threat of suicide attacks. Hezbollah, the mainly Shia group, could carry out reprisals for last week's Israeli shelling of a Lebanese refugee camp. The end of the traditional Shia 40-day mourning for those killed coincides with the May 29 Israeli elections, an event that may be targeted by other terrorist groups.

There has been a spate of killings in Manila, making the **Philippines** high-risk. The West African republic **Togo** is considered dangerous: security in Lomé, the capital, is deteriorating and visitors are advised not to travel at night.

In **Peru** Shining Path guerrillas have murdered villagers, ambushed police and military patrols and assassinated a community leader.

In **Colombia** the President has issued an emergency decree allowing the imposition of curfews and military checkpoints in the light of worsening terrorist activity by the National Liberation Army.

In **Guatemala** military and security officials are accused of being involved in the current high level of kidnapping.

EXTREME RISK

SERIOUS unrest in **Lebanon** continues. In **Sri Lanka** a new army offensive in the north could result in the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam stepping up terrorist attacks. Earlier this year there was a suicide bomb in Colombo.

Algeria continues to be very dangerous and the Foreign Office issued a warning in early April not to travel there. **Liberia** is again tense after renewed fighting. Travellers may be in danger of harassment, injury or even death.

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SATURDAY TRAVEL

Travel the world
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Tom Pocock on how
to enjoy Venice
Insider's Paris, by
Kate Muir
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country
Jill Crawshaw's
travel tips

Condoms in the mini-bar

By David Churchill

HOTELIERS are belatedly responding to guests' criticisms of the high prices and restricted contents of hotel mini-bars by introducing a wide range of products, including cigarettes, condoms and cameras.

The Mayfair Inter-Continental hotel in central London this week revealed that since it had started to introduce a wider range of goods in its mini-bars, sales had risen by 35 per cent. Stephen Brandman, the hotel's resident manager, says: "What we are offering are the small things that people forget when travelling and that they usually have to go to a shop to buy."

Since introducing the changes last month, the 287-room Mayfair has sold 48 disposable cameras, ten packs of playing cards and 159 packets of cigarettes. The latter are only available in the mini-bars in smoking rooms.

The hotel has also introduced what it describes as the relief pack — although this is due to be renamed the Emergency Pack — containing aspirin, Alka-Seltzer, Beechams Powders, plasters, tampons and condoms. This is priced at £6 and items are not sold separately. More food items have also been introduced, such as crisps, shortbread and jellybeans, which are also selling well.

The Mayfair is not alone in reviewing the contents of its mini-bars. The management of the new Grosvenor House Crown Club is presently considering what extras to include when its rooms open in the early summer. The Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly is also looking at what it offers in its mini-bars, although Giles Shepherd, the managing director, insists that "we don't want it looking like a village shop".

But not all hoteliers are interested in changing what has proved to be a lucrative money-spinner for them in the past. Profit margins can be between 300 and 400 per cent on some miniature bottles of drink. About 5 per cent of the room revenues come from the mini-bars.

Brown's Hotel and the Savoy both say they have no plans to change their traditional mini-bar contents, nor does the Thistle hotel chain which is London's largest with 28 hotels in the capital. But Thistle revealed that customer demand had led to extra condom machines being installed in some of its hotels.

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***The Times* continues its exclusive coverage of the 1996 Flora London Marathon with the names of competitors who finished inside 4 hours, 58 minutes and 52 seconds. The results are provided by Unisys, official suppliers of computers to the race. The names and times of the other finishers will be continued tomorrow.**

J Hackett 4:15:21; C Bernard 4:15:21; J Cashen 4:15:21; A Gent 4:15:22; D Ellis 4:15:22; A Gray 4:15:23; N Lipczynski 4:15:24; A Vaughan 4:15:24; M Girard 4:15:25; R Scarratt 4:15:25; M Vanneskoski 4:15:26; D Greaves 4:15:26; E Azevedo 4:15:26; P Halfield 4:15:26; A Hallam 4:15:26; M Pardey 4:15:27; J Sheppard 4:15:27; C Cregg 4:15:27; J Kelly 4:15:27; G Foulds 4:15:28; J Foley 4:15:28; C Greenwood 4:15:28; K Risby 4:15:29; M Morrissey 4:15:29; D Jones 4:15:29; D Griggs 4:15:30; R Ward 4:15:30; M Le Brun 4:15:31; G Flowers 4:15:31; M Lawson 4:15:31; M Welfare 4:15:32; P Ross 4:15:32; W Terry 4:15:33; W Coleman 4:15:33; N Beeston 4:15:33; D Murray 4:15:33; C Larsson 4:15:33; E Lewin 4:15:33; R Parry 4:15:33; J Gott 4:15:33; C Croft 4:15:33; E Allu 4:15:33; A Fisher 4:15:33; D Sheridan 4:15:33; C Loring 4:15:34; G Harris 4:15:35; J Stelling 4:15:35; J Mosley 4:15:35; A Purdy 4:15:36; E Walsh 4:15:36; F Finnerty 4:15:37; C Tye 4:15:38; P Allen 4:15:38; C Page 4:15:38; G Mosby 4:15:38; B Abbs 4:15:38; P Bierman 4:15:38.

12,201 G Knipe 4:15:38; C Van Zandvoort 4:15:38; M Holland 4:15:39; K Roberts 4:15:39; P Goodfield 4:15:40; B Woodcock 4:15:40; J Ibarra 4:15:40; D Woodhouse 4:15:40; G Ives 4:15:40; D Ashby 4:15:41; W Silk 4:15:41; A Morris 4:15:42; K Ward 4:15:42; D Bartlett 4:15:42; T Bonner 4:15:43; B Perkins 4:15:43; T Mitchell 4:15:43; G Davis 4:15:43; A Godfrey 4:15:43; J Bayliss 4:15:44; J Summerton 4:15:44; J Tuhey 4:15:45; J Butler 4:15:45; J Nellis 4:15:45; P Handscombe 4:15:45; J Savigar 4:15:45; W Earle 4:15:45; B Doherty 4:15:45; A Noya Lamas 4:15:45; A Jay 4:15:45; R Robinson 4:15:46; K Horan 4:15:46; I Collier 4:15:46; R Hadgraft 4:15:48; J Martinez Zazo 4:15:48; R Jenkins 4:15:48; J Whitehouse 4:15:50; K Sanderson 4:15:50; A Bowler *4:15:51; G Simpson 4:15:51;* J Hines 4:15:51; G Nunn 4:15:51; R Bagot 4:15:52; G Moffat 4:15:53; E Forshaw 4:15:53; R Stephens 4:15:54; D Armstrong 4:15:54; O Maestrini 4:15:55; K Borup 4:15:55; S Summerfield 4:15:55; F Cummings 4:15:56; B Baines 4:15:56; J Harris 4:15:58; J Gibbs 4:15:58; V Stone 4:15:58; J Picken 4:15:58; C North 4:15:59; G Davies 4:15:59; T Thiruvengadam 4:15:59; G Landegger 4:15:59; M Misselbrook 4:16:00; H O'Shea 4:16:00; D Booth 4:16:00; M Booth 4:16:01; R Foster 4:16:01; S Glover 4:16:01; D Hopkins 4:16:01; S Obrien 4:16:01; G White 4:16:01; D Zithan 4:16:02; M Tucker 4:16:02; P Rhodes 4:16:02; A Tucker 4:16:02; M Jacobs 4:16:02; D Grant 4:16:02; H Schulz 4:16:03; J Grasseau 4:16:03; C Brooke 4:16:04; J Urrestarazu 4:16:04; M Mount 4:16:04; H Campbell 4:16:04; P Carson 4:16:04; G Cooper 4:16:04; S Bennett 4:16:04; T Hyam 4:16:05; C Gurney 4:16:05; R Friend 4:16:06; P Molin 4:16:06; K Nishida 4:16:06; N Ogle 4:16:06; J Richards 4:16:07; G Wreghitt 4:16:07; G Fisher 4:16:07; D Mackie 4:16:07; P Chaix 4:16:08; A Smiddy 4:16:09; A Ezzine 4:16:11; A Vivoli 4:16:11; D Beardsmore 4:16:12; D Helmer 4:16:12.

12,301 D Fake 4:16:13; R Smith 4:16:13; W Eynon 4:16:13; A Toft 4:16:13; I Phillips 4:16:14; S Dimmock 4:16:14; L Hickman 4:16:17; K Rawlinson 4:16:18; C Tanner 4:16:18; D Vorres 4:16:19; C McDonald 4:16:19; R Lilley 4:16:19; T Wilmshurst 4:16:20; G Brown 4:16:20; P Kobrak 4:16:20; T Worsfield 4:16:21; H Leigh 4:16:22; I Pearce 4:16:22; A Walters 4:16:22; C Drewer 4:16:22; T Andrzejewski 4:16:22; H Andrewitz 4:16:23; S Kiberd 4:16:23; R Knook 4:16:24; R Homer 4:16:24; M Wilkey 4:16:25; M Renaudet 4:16:25; A Bayley 4:16:26; S Burden 4:16:26; M Nasr 4:16:26; I Rapley 4:16:27; R Ward 4:16:27; W Bell 4:16:27; M Bone 4:16:27; R Poyner 4:16:28; J Allan 4:16:28; D Badler 4:16:28; N Brookes 4:16:28; T Williams 4:16:29; A Wayne 4:16:29; R Musgrove 4:16:30; A Phillips 4:16:30; B Hughes 4:16:30; K Kivilouma 4:16:30; R Porter 4:16:30; A Ahman 4:16:30; C Atkin 4:16:30; F Rose 4:16:31; R Froecklin 4:16:32; Y Desailly-Chanson 4:16:32; S Hall 4:16:32; *G Crummett 4:16:32; D Melville* 4:16:33; A Slater 4:16:34; A Pates 4:16:34; G Smith 4:16:35; T Beeston 4:16:35; B Parry 4:16:35; P Shepheard 4:16:36; B Gaze 4:16:36; A Brown 4:16:36; J Warehand 4:16:36; R Nicholson 4:16:38; A Joslin 4:16:38; D English 4:16:39; I Newbitt 4:16:39; P Cheong 4:16:39; S Osborne 4:16:39; K Schenk 4:16:39; D Brooks 4:16:39; R Freeman 4:16:39; A Ross 4:16:39; R Verrall 4:16:39; J Kellenberger 4:16:40; N Brun 4:16:40; P Jackson 4:16:40; B McHugh 4:16:40; R Schweickharot 4:16:40; D Jackson 4:16:40; S Rimmer 4:16:40; J Hand 4:16:40; M Sheets 4:16:40; C Tomkins 4:16:40; G White 4:16:40; F Jacobs 4:16:40; I McLeod 4:16:40; P Bevan 4:16:41; H Hoar 4:16:41; M Robson 4:16:42; L Payne 4:16:42; A Niet De 4:16:43; V Dosanjh 4:16:43; M Newman 4:16:43; S Ramsey 4:16:43; R Garnett 4:16:43; E Routley 4:16:43; L Telford 4:16:43; A Kayaerts 4:16:43; M Riddiford 4:16:43; P Davidson 4:16:43.

12,401 A De Boer 4:16:43; B Smith 4:16:44; D Anderson 4:16:44; A Taylor 4:16:44; A Simons 4:16:44; I McLaren 4:16:45; M Gruber *4:16:45; P Steers 4:16:46; J Flatt* 4:16:46; E Carlsson 4:16:47; L Pollock 4:16:47; H Jusic 4:16:47; C Palmer 4:16:47; B Sutcliffe 4:16:48; T Masterton 4:16:49; F Titchener 4:16:49; P Fox 4:16:49; S Young 4:16:49; P O'Driscoll 4:16:50; C Hogg 4:16:50; G Sen 4:16:50; J Sen 4:16:50; T Odonoghue 4:16:50; R Skibinski 4:16:51; S Hutchison 4:16:51; P Bedford 4:16:51; R Smart 4:16:51; D Ferguson 4:16:52; R Stokes 4:16:52; M Fletcher 4:16:52; S Driver 4:16:52; J Taylor 4:16:53; K Becker 4:16:53; R Watkins 4:16:54; C Williams 4:16:54; J Pegelow *4:16:54; M Winsbury 4:16:54;* L Davies 4:16:55; M Bayliss 4:16:55; P Stevenson 4:16:56; D Chamberlain 4:16:56; I Cullen 4:16:57; K Cartwright 4:16:57; M Soper 4:16:58; G Seelig 4:16:58; V Pridmore 4:16:58; T Sands 4:16:58; J Hart 4:16:59; D Ford 4:16:59; M Jenson 4:16:59; J Martin 4:16:59; J Shook 4:16:59; N Rushmere 4:16:59; R Skinner 4:16:59; I David 4:16:59; S Adamson 4:16:59; S Walker 4:17:00; S Dudley 4:17:00; M Pringle 4:17:00; R Voyce 4:17:00; K Friberg 4:17:01; B Duff 4:17:01; D Hardcastle 4:17:01; J McCarthy 4:17:02; J Rousseau 4:17:02; M Griffiths 4:17:03; J Aryiku 4:17:05; J Goodson 4:17:06; R Dear 4:17:06; P Hearn 4:17:06; P Richings 4:17:07; K Marshall 4:17:07; S Diplock 4:17:07; J Paterson 4:17:08; G Giddins 4:17:08; K Dove 4:17:08; K Ridgewell 4:17:09; C Murray 4:17:09; D Davies 4:17:09; I Walwyn 4:17:10; T Murray 4:17:10; C O'Connor-Fenton 4:17:10; J Parkhouse 4:17:11; T Worn 4:17:11; E Luckman 4:17:11; D Zair 4:17:11; R Hutchings 4:17:12; B Cox 4:17:13; T Cowham 4:17:13; J Evans 4:17:13; M Ridding 4:17:14; R Drakeford 4:17:14; D Evans 4:17:14; G Walters 4:17:15; J Bowden 4:17:16; D Hargreaves 4:17:16; P Fenton 4:17:16; W Braun 4:17:17; I Gray 4:17:17; G Holland 4:17:18.

12,501 B Hall 4:17:18; P Lee 4:17:18; H Pesch 4:17:18; I *Pratsides 4:17:18;* T Humphreys 4:17:18; V Wallace 4:17:19; T Hama 4:17:19; A Nuyten 4:17:19; J Dodsworth 4:17:19; M Garwood 4:17:20; D Wright 4:17:20; T Egan 4:17:20; B Holmes 4:17:21; G Smart 4:17:21; E Pol 4:17:21; J Downes 4:17:21; J Macaulay 4:17:22; J O'Toole 4:17:22; T Roberts 4:17:22; A Watson 4:17:23; N Gaskell 4:17:23; J Pollard 4:17:24; R McCaughlin 4:17:24; A Ginot 4:17:24; N Field 4:17:24; J Jenkins 4:17:25; C Jordan 4:17:26; C Lee 4:17:26; B Robinson 4:17:27; M Smith 4:17:27; B Howe 4:17:27; D Hawke 4:17:28; M Burbidge 4:17:28; A Davis 4:17:28; P Guillouet 4:17:29; H Martin 4:17:29; C Ricketts 4:17:29; J Pressley 4:17:29; R Abel 4:17:30; O Groom 4:17:30; G Russell 4:17:30; P Broadway 4:17:30; C Comper 4:17:30; N Bailey 4:17:30; G Foster 4:17:30; D Francis 4:17:30; N Levene 4:17:30; A Jones 4:17:31; P Chee 4:17:31; D Joyce 4:17:31; A Faure Grimaud 4:17:31; N Hopkins 4:17:32; J Ashley 4:17:32; P Griffiths 4:17:32; M Quinlivan 4:17:32; K Sutton 4:17:32; B Moss 4:17:32; J Lindsey 4:17:32; J Segura 4:17:32; M Fryer 4:17:32; M Nicholls 4:17:32; G Musiol 4:17:32; R Jolly 4:17:33; W Macleod 4:17:34; M Dennis 4:17:34; S Fleming 4:17:34; R Gaunt 4:17:35; A Jones 4:17:35; T Davison 4:17:36; S Chandrasena 4:17:36; D Chapman 4:17:36; K Waerness 4:17:36; D Cotton 4:17:36; R Davidson 4:17:36; C Irving 4:17:36; B Dudley 4:17:37; M North 4:17:37; S Quinn 4:17:38; W Holland 4:17:40; T Stoker 4:17:41; S Brown 4:17:41; C Kennedy 4:17:42; W Horz 4:17:42; M Preuveneers 4:17:42; D Bryant 4:17:42; C Hunt 4:17:42; P Waldron 4:17:42; D Campbell 4:17:42; N Campbell 4:17:42; M Kauffman 4:17:42; A Jackson 4:17:44; M Gomez 4:17:44; J Scott 4:17:45; *G Skinner 4:17:45;* I Allison 4:17:45; A Hedgley 4:17:45; R Tye 4:17:45; C Hayes 4:17:45; D Wilcox 4:17:46; D Tye 4:17:46.

12,601 C Gore 4:17:46; A Goldberg 4:17:47; A Phillips 4:17:47; P Mottram 4:17:47; L Townley 4:17:47; E Barrett 4:17:47; K Starr 4:17:47; E Hamalainen 4:17:47; G Helm 4:17:48; M Schofield 4:17:48; W Card 4:17:50; R Michie 4:17:51; T Hellings 4:17:53; J Mott 4:17:53; P Gedge 4:17:53; A Ward 4:17:53; P Nutley 4:17:54; D Morris 4:17:54; H Ruiz 4:17:54; I Mortimer 4:17:55; O Wuerdemann 4:17:55; M McLean 4:17:55; K Roderick 4:17:56; G Pevitt 4:17:56; W Williams 4:17:57; C Maltby 4:17:57; J Tyszkiewicz 4:17:57; B Vaughan 4:17:57; L Foster 4:17:57; L Dixon 4:17:57; S Watson 4:17:58; S Dennis 4:17:58; F Williams 4:17:58; R Firth 4:17:58; N Pearce 4:17:58; H Lund 4:17:58; J Butler 4:17:58; P Bartlett 4:17:59; H Stewart 4:17:59; S Roach 4:17:59; R Fender 4:18:00; J Curry 4:18:00; I Hussein 4:18:00; G Johnson 4:18:01; J Cox 4:18:01; W Verellen 4:18:01; F De Later 4:18:02; D Shaw 4:18:03; J Dale 4:18:03; J Walder 4:18:04; C Cox 4:18:04; P Fisher 4:18:05; E Giorgetti 4:18:05; M Egerton 4:18:06; C Miller 4:18:06; D Fransen 4:18:06; B Evans 4:18:07; C Mayor 4:18:07; D Gurnett 4:18:07; A Baker 4:18:07; N Stillinger 4:18:08; K Wenselowski 4:18:09; D Smith 4:18:09; M Thomas 4:18:09; R Lynn 4:18:09; R Eustace 4:18:09; J Fitzmaurice 4:18:10; P Southern 4:18:10; J Meoulet 4:18:10; M Morgan 4:18:10; S Powell 4:18:11; A Pollard 4:18:12; R Sambridge 4:18:12; M Baker 4:18:12; G Dawson 4:18:12; K Bench 4:18:13; N Hayes-Davies 4:18:13; A Jordan 4:18:14; S Vincent 4:18:14; J Hands 4:18:14; P Tree 4:18:15; C McKane 4:18:15; Y Edouard 4:18:15; C Millson 4:18:15; D Friesner 4:18:15; A McBeal 4:18:15; P Martin 4:18:15; A Burns 4:18:15; R Harrison 4:18:16; M Mantell 4:18:17; K Fitzgerald 4:18:17; J Cheesman 4:18:18; R Sharp 4:18:18; A Geeves 4:18:18; J Chatillon 4:18:19; W Turner 4:18:19; J Burton 4:18:19; M Jones 4:18:19; T Anderson 4:18:20; T Bridger 4:18:20.

12,701 C Brothers 4:18:20; L Gordon 4:18:21; D Steed 4:18:21; *R Baker 4:18:21; P Earl 4:18:21;* A Bergfort 4:18:21; J Garratt 4:18:21; P Mackenzie 4:18:21; M Cleverley 4:18:21; U Carlsson 4:18:21; J Richards 4:18:21; J Jacques 4:18:21; D Machon 4:18:21; M Smith 4:18:22; M Bryant 4:18:22; D Carr 4:18:22; P Harvey 4:18:23; R Young 4:18:23; A Montrose 4:18:23; K Cockhead 4:18:24; C Hamer 4:18:24; T Hainsby 4:18:27; M Newman 4:18:28; I Hoenel 4:18:28; R Westerman 4:18:29; C House 4:18:29; P Ludwig 4:18:30; M Newsam 4:18:30; M Richardson 4:18:30; R Berry 4:18:30; G Eastman 4:18:30; R Kerr 4:18:30; J Ford 4:18:32; A Wright 4:18:33; A Hall 4:18:33; S Clinnick 4:18:33; J Markwardt 4:18:33; S Chapman 4:18:33; B Laker 4:18:34; B Parkins 4:18:34; A Randall 4:18:34; C Evans 4:18:34; R Perry 4:18:34; R Kendle 4:18:35; G Harkin 4:18:35; T Paolini 4:18:35; B Millar 4:18:36; G Kirk 4:18:37; B Roberts 4:18:38; D McGowan 4:18:38; P Kalli 4:18:38; I Galloway 4:18:39; E Cavicchi 4:18:39; P Wilson 4:18:39; J Wallbank 4:18:39; A Gregson 4:18:39; E Bolton 4:18:39; R Stanley 4:18:39; T Szabo 4:18:39; N Simpson 4:18:39; O Donck 4:18:39; P Whitworth 4:18:39; J *Selby 4:18:39; N Stock 4:18:39;* A Nilsson 4:18:39; R Budin 4:18:39; T Brown 4:18:39; M Bjerke 4:18:39; D Terrell 4:18:40; T Prendergast 4:18:40; C Cook 4:18:40; R Grist 4:18:41; R Hodgson 4:18:41; C Hudson 4:18:41; C Morrin 4:18:41; J Hunt 4:18:41; J Piggins 4:18:41; J Vella-Bone 4:18:41; U Minder 4:18:41; L Glendenning 4:18:41; P Keating 4:18:41; B Matson 4:18:41; J Ingham 4:18:41; F Impey 4:18:41; D Berry 4:18:41; B Mayo 4:18:41; R Chatterton 4:18:41; F Davies 4:18:41; K McDonald 4:18:41; W Cairns 4:18:41; W Pilgrim 4:18:41; *S Wbooley 4:18:41; C Hunger* 4:18:41; J Zaat 4:18:41; S Leonard 4:18:41; J Smith 4:18:41; D Hopkins 4:18:41; D Randall 4:18:41; J Gristwood 4:18:41; B Brookes 4:18:41.

12,801 R Baker 4:18:41; T Stocker 4:18:41; J McKellar 4:18:41; R Heyes 4:18:41; B Cansick 4:18:41; K Morgan 4:18:41; S Guyver 4:18:41; D Sackett 4:18:41; D Robson 4:18:41; T Marquette 4:18:41; H Rechbauer 4:18:41; L Peacock 4:18:43; S Lay 4:18:43; A Jordan 4:18:43; M Hammond 4:18:44; J Allsop 4:18:44; M McInerney 4:18:45; R Simpson 4:18:45; S Smith 4:18:45; S Giles 4:18:46; B Belcher 4:18:46; R Krause-Whiteing 4:18:46; J Cawthorne 4:18:46; S Garner 4:18:48; J Hill 4:18:49; C Futter 4:18:49; R Allen 4:18:50; J Robson 4:18:50; D Knight 4:18:50; J Knight 4:18:50; K Turnbull 4:18:50; A Saunders 4:18:50; I Dickens 4:18:50; J Andersson 4:18:50; P Tozer 4:18:51; J Taberner 4:18:51; M Haddock 4:18:51; J Steine 4:18:54; S Faulkner 4:18:54; R Smart 4:18:56; D Dainty 4:18:59; R Huggett 4:18:59; J Dyer 4:19:03; T Feber 4:19:03; C Lane 4:19:04; M Paget 4:19:05; J Cullingham 4:19:05; K Beauchamp 4:19:05; C Halliday 4:19:06; S Vaughan 4:19:07; M Carlisle 4:19:07; A Dyer 4:19:08; J Wrench 4:19:08; D Robinson 4:19:08; S Pilat 4:19:08; G Griggs 4:19:09; S Waites 4:19:09; Y Winkelman 4:19:10; P Hunter 4:19:11; B Gouls 4:19:11; J Schrijuers 4:19:11; D Akers 4:19:11; J Glen 4:19:11; D Elwick 4:19:12; E Mjoeen 4:19:12; A Donald 4:19:12; R Offer 4:19:13; L Greatorex 4:19:13; R Bicknell 4:19:13; E Avery 4:19:13; T Nicholson 4:19:13; R Oswin 4:19:14; D Thompson 4:19:14; C Drury 4:19:14; G Bush 4:19:15; K Thomson 4:19:15; R Vann 4:19:15; D Lee 4:19:15; S Almansa 4:19:16; B Bennion 4:19:16; T Cooper 4:19:16; G Brandwood 4:19:17; M Legg 4:19:17; A Jansen 4:19:17; H Rennen 4:19:17; N Bloxsome 4:19:17; A Loveday 4:19:17; M Armstrong 4:19:17; G Shaw 4:19:17; R Woodland 4:19:17; W *Setter 4:19:17; S Utteridge 4:19:18;* J Procter 4:19:18; B Pascal 4:19:18; A McVey 4:19:18; K Knight 4:19:18; M Gibson 4:19:18; D Darbar 4:19:18; G Jackson 4:19:20; A Wilson 4:19:21.

Tower Bridge provides a fairy-tale backdrop for this marathon competitor to add his own brand of magic

12,901 D Roberts 4:19:21; J Burns 4:19:21; G Cohen 4:19:22; I Macleod 4:19:23; A Hannigan 4:19:24; N Ruddock 4:19:25; W Carr 4:19:25; M Gabay 4:19:26; G Rolfe 4:19:27; R Hyland 4:19:27; A Walters 4:19:28; O De-Turckheim 4:19:28; T Vacher 4:19:28; F Mino 4:19:29; D King 4:19:29; B Webb 4:19:29; C Jolly 4:19:30; S Thompson 4:19:30; G Bloch 4:19:31; J Clarke 4:19:31; H Chadwick 4:19:31; C Wilkinson 4:19:31; A Le Mellor 4:19:31; I Lowe 4:19:32; R Du Bois 4:19:32; N Humphry 4:19:32; E Marotske 4:19:33; B Finch 4:19:33; T Van Bergen 4:19:33; A Crabtree 4:19:34; C Taylor 4:19:34; D Jones 4:19:34; A Lamb 4:19:35; M Conlan 4:19:35; M Symmonds 4:19:35; C Gosling 4:19:35; A Rodway 4:19:36; M Parker 4:19:36; G Hall 4:19:36; J Morriss 4:19:37; M Sublet 4:19:37; L Grave 4:19:37; D Hay-Harris 4:19:38; M Bailey 4:19:38; T Antonis 4:19:38; C Godward 4:19:38; S Kuht 4:19:38; *P Dahlmeyer 4:19:38; J Laumann* 4:19:38; R Elliott 4:19:38; P Worthington 4:19:38; P Claridge 4:19:38; B Worthington 4:19:38; M Davis 4:19:38; E Klesta 4:19:38; J Hunter 4:19:39; G Wintle 4:19:39; A Wright 4:19:39; G Mason 4:19:39; S Belfer 4:19:40; A Hornibrook 4:19:40; M Shipton 4:19:40; T Collins 4:19:41; A Poulten 4:19:41; R Canton 4:19:42; N Gittins 4:19:42; P Blake 4:19:42; J Kelly 4:19:42; A Vane 4:19:42; D Williams 4:19:42; R Linton 4:19:42; M Sullivan 4:19:42; C Ridley 4:19:43; G Chapman 4:19:43; J Dulcoure *4:19:44; M Steeds 4:19:44;* M Donmall 4:19:44; G Hodgson 4:19:44; V Lariccia 4:19:44; G Lockhart 4:19:45; R Gavra 4:19:46; M Askew 4:19:47; T Kandahl 4:19:47; N Hurlstone 4:19:47; A Goodrich 4:19:48; J Evans 4:19:48; R Van Marrewisk 4:19:48; S Cordner 4:19:51; S Godwin 4:19:51; J Kaihoj 4:19:52; L Tonner 4:19:52; R Crosbie 4:19:53; J Dodson 4:19:53; P Marshall 4:19:53; J Payne 4:19:53; A Musikant 4:19:53; M Turner 4:19:53; G Little 4:19:54; P Davis 4:19:55; J Rutherford 4:19:55.

13,001 P Watts 4:19:55; A Lapworth 4:19:55; A Pick 4:19:55; B Murphy 4:19:55; A Baccanello 4:19:55; L Sandoz 4:19:56; D Barrow 4:19:56; J Bowyer 4:19:57; P Chitty 4:19:57; C Roche 4:19:57; A Davidson 4:19:57; A Lamb 4:19:58; A Reekie 4:19:58; M Ward 4:19:58; R Quibell 4:19:58; P Newton 4:19:58; R Sproston 4:19:58; C Reed 4:19:59; J Ritchie 4:19:59; J Jackson 4:20:00; P Ritchie 4:20:01; P Hubbard 4:20:01; W Jones 4:20:01; J Allen 4:20:02; S Gilkes 4:20:02; S Norwood 4:20:02; T Groenteland *4:20:02; G Aarons 4:20:02;* P Vivian 4:20:04; L Moxhay 4:20:04; S Hancox 4:20:05; D Smith 4:20:05; A Dowling 4:20:06; G Hill 4:20:06; D Schlooser 4:20:06; R Green 4:20:06; D Schwartz 4:20:06; M Hess 4:20:06; J Leppanen 4:20:06; M Selfwell 4:20:07; J Ralph 4:20:07; K Parkins 4:20:07; P Watson 4:20:07; A Riley 4:20:07; I Nichol 4:20:09; C Nash 4:20:10; D Werk 4:20:10; J Appleton 4:20:10; P Fields 4:20:11; C Slade 4:20:11; J Tomlinson 4:20:11; S Sadie 4:20:11; T Perks 4:20:11; H Diele 4:20:12; A Street 4:20:13; S Holder 4:20:15; N Critchley 4:20:15; M Diener 4:20:15; D Berthelmann 4:20:16; J Dixon 4:20:16; N Kenny 4:20:16; L Reynolds 4:20:16; P Stevens 4:20:17; R Holt 4:20:17; N Montgomery 4:20:17; W Marshall 4:20:17; P Herbert 4:20:18; C Watson 4:20:19; G Quick 4:20:20; P Wood 4:20:20; A Carlile 4:20:21; J Blathwayt 4:20:21; M Walters 4:20:21; P Wrangles 4:20:22; M Tucker 4:20:22; J Fox 4:20:22; C *Rolls 4:20:22; B Wilkins 4:20:22;* C Gray 4:20:24; D Hughes 4:20:25; J Webbon 4:20:25; A Ashley 4:20:26; I Jennings 4:20:26; G Palmer 4:20:26; G Bates 4:20:26; S Dean 4:20:27; A Fitzgerald 4:20:27; R Garton 4:20:27; J Korsvold 4:20:28; P Anderson 4:20:28; P Cavero 4:20:29; L Berman 4:20:30; D Main 4:20:30; E Franklin 4:20:30; C Deboer 4:20:31; N Bartler 4:20:31; H Christensen 4:20:32; L Laurie 4:20:32; R Thornburgh 4:20:32; J Borrill 4:20:32.

FLORA
LONDON
MARATHON
1996
UNISYS

13,101 N Gilmer 4:20:32; S Borrill 4:20:32; P O'Donald 4:20:32; M Bush 4:20:33; P Palmer 4:20:33; B Kramer 4:20:34; S Shankar 4:20:34; B Hughes 4:20:34; H Haseley 4:20:34; A Ross 4:20:34; P *Wright 4:20:35; P Escott 4:20:35; J* Cowley 4:20:35; I Bunce 4:20:35; L Gouaux 4:20:35; G Leon 4:20:35; B Radureau 4:20:35; R Probets 4:20:35; J Sear 4:20:35; R Hogwood 4:20:35; J Ziemniak 4:20:35; B Greene 4:20:35; M Hudson 4:20:35; L Warren 4:20:35; C Lyons 4:20:35; A Shutes 4:20:36; D Greene 4:20:36; M Perumal 4:20:36; N Howard 4:20:37; S Illingworth 4:20:37; E Matson 4:20:37; P Twyman 4:20:37; J Smith 4:20:37; C Burrow 4:20:37; D Montgomery 4:20:38; S Hulcoop 4:20:38; T Williams 4:20:38; G Park 4:20:39; L Brooks 4:20:40; B Heather 4:20:40; D Cathie 4:20:40; K Pollard 4:20:41; T Taylor 4:20:41; A Powell 4:20:41; J Little 4:20:42; M Gravestock 4:20:42; S Le Sage 4:20:42; A Matthews 4:20:42; S James 4:20:42; P Bradford 4:20:42; G Roy 4:20:44; E Borteanu 4:20:44; M Holbrook 4:20:45; M Paterson 4:20:45; J Stemp 4:20:46; J Durrance 4:20:46; R Holford 4:20:47; C Loxton 4:20:47; D Kelly 4:20:48; I Rios 4:20:48; R Porter 4:20:49; R Gray 4:20:49; T Tachikawa 4:20:49; J Gould 4:20:49; J Healeas 4:20:49; P *Holder 4:20:50; A Rattray 4:20:50;* J Conmy 4:20:50; A Healeas 4:20:50; J Cornish 4:20:50; P Bagshaw 4:20:51; D Rowntree 4:20:51; J McIntyre 4:20:51; G Spikins 4:20:51; J Marshall 4:20:51; A Ellarby 4:20:51; Z Shadiou 4:20:51; M Baitsch 4:20:51; M Allibone 4:20:51; G Heudt 4:20:51; L Bennett 4:20:51; R Garrard 4:20:51; B Hope 4:20:52; G Purnell 4:20:52; D Clarke 4:20:52; A Coffey 4:20:53; P Dunn 4:20:53; K Tan 4:20:53; P Darbyshire 4:20:53; R Jarman 4:20:53; R Power 4:20:53; N Cook 4:20:53; G Bereika 4:20:53; S Hesketh 4:20:53; A Martinez 4:20:54; J Gyben 4:20:54; M McLaren 4:20:55; P Warren 4:20:55; B Arkell 4:20:55; M Mills 4:20:55.

13,201 R Dean 4:20:55; H Keller 4:20:55; J Quibell 4:20:55; T Haymes 4:20:55; D Cox 4:20:56; C Luckin 4:20:56; P Brent 4:20:56; S Torres 4:20:57; P Shipman 4:20:57; L Compton 4:20:58; L *Mataiba 4:20:59; C Freer 4:20:59;* B Pevitt 4:20:59; D Challis 4:20:59; E Burns 4:21:00; W Reisser 4:21:00; G Simmonds 4:21:00; G Wallis 4:21:01; G Hull 4:21:01; L Toulson 4:21:01; S Prior 4:21:01; C Middleton 4:21:02; M Graham 4:21:02; B Hitchcock 4:21:02; S Payne 4:21:02; R Hedderman 4:21:03; S Jevtic 4:21:03; T Howcroft 4:21:03; P Bashforth 4:21:03; L Pullen 4:21:03; A Maseko 4:21:04; D Huxter 4:21:04; C Petty 4:21:04; J Conchis 4:21:04; G Snape 4:21:05; R Duffin 4:21:05; T Pullen 4:21:05; A Eves 4:21:05; R Swale 4:21:05; J Brown 4:21:06; B Freier 4:21:07; V Anandasothy 4:21:07; J Madinda 4:21:07; N Wrighton 4:21:07; M Ryan 4:21:08; A Joule 4:21:08; J Oldfield 4:21:08; P Ranson 4:21:08; D Foxley 4:21:09; H Sugihara 4:21:09; G Davis 4:21:09; M Smith 4:21:09; M Bednall 4:21:09; S Uchiki 4:21:09; M Hennessey 4:21:09; T Bennett 4:21:09; A Harper 4:21:11; P Jakes 4:21:11; F San Emeterio 4:21:11; J Sharp 4:21:12; F White 4:21:12; N Thoms 4:21:12; R Payne 4:21:12; A Tsoi 4:21:12; G Loboda 4:21:13; B Horsepool 4:21:13; A Redondo 4:21:13; G Barratt 4:21:13; B O'Sullivan 4:21:13; Y Brien *4:21:14; H Furr 4:21:14; N Stacey* 4:21:14; C Budd 4:21:15; J Daley 4:21:16; P Engel 4:21:16; J Lissaman 4:21:17; G Good 4:21:17; M Evans 4:21:18; P Marris 4:21:18; S Oatley 4:21:18; M Ramsay 4:21:18; D Willing 4:21:18; J Holdroyd 4:21:19; G Jones 4:21:19; C Boar 4:21:19; T Martin 4:21:19; N Birks 4:21:19; P Gilchrist 4:21:19; M Amison 4:21:20; J Dowden 4:21:20; I Eglin 4:21:21; S Boehmer 4:21:21; K Ashby 4:21:21; C Atty 4:21:21; G Cuoghi 4:21:22; D Gray 4:21:22; F Geay 4:21:22; T Brooks 4:21:22; K Dale 4:21:23; C Holdstock 4:21:24.

13,301 S Livesey 4:21:24; G Shales 4:21:25; R Northey 4:21:25; K Powell 4:21:25; C Thomas 4:21:25; J Raggett 4:21:25; S Klein 4:21:25; B Wilson 4:21:25; L Fuller 4:21:25; J George 4:21:25; J Harris 4:21:26; J Newton 4:21:26; A Alderton 4:21:26; F Atton 4:21:26; T Robson 4:21:27; P Sharpe 4:21:27; P Hultorel 4:21:27; M Duggin 4:21:28; A Millard 4:21:28; Y Gabet 4:21:29; P Atkins 4:21:30; G Childs 4:21:30; C Flueckiger 4:21:34; P Wright 4:21:34; G Lamb 4:21:37; R Dyer 4:21:37; J Hibberd 4:21:38; R Patel 4:21:38; F Fucile 4:21:38; B Smith 4:21:39; L Crepin 4:21:39; J Aas 4:21:39; I Sylvester 4:21:39; P Wahl 4:21:39; M Coleman 4:21:40; N Dobson 4:21:40; D Ball 4:21:40; M Jackson 4:21:40; V Jones 4:21:43; K Ottley 4:21:44; C Berry 4:21:45; M Oliver 4:21:45; J Brown 4:21:45; P Holmes 4:21:45; G Jordan 4:21:45; T Baker 4:21:45; R Clark 4:21:45; J Smith 4:21:45; S Leak 4:21:45; J Koe 4:21:46; M Holmes 4:21:46; G Johnson 4:21:47; K Bussey 4:21:48; W Oakes 4:21:48; J Shreeve 4:21:48; C Gunn 4:21:48; S Le Marechal 4:21:48; J Andrew 4:21:48; D *Rhodes 4:21:49;* R Cruttenden 4:21:49; M Reid 4:21:49; B Dowman 4:21:50; M Worwood 4:21:50; D Pearson 4:21:50; M Pegg 4:21:51; D Stott 4:21:51; J Lefebvre 4:21:51; R Lainsbury 4:21:51; M Orban 4:21:51; R McCarthy 4:21:51; B Bennett 4:21:51; D McMillan 4:21:51; C Mason 4:21:52; I Gardiner 4:21:52; B Musto 4:21:52; A Mounter 4:21:52; G Gleave 4:21:52; R Winter 4:21:53; J Quaid 4:21:53; E Gardner 4:21:54; I Cook 4:21:54; A Colgan 4:21:55; G Shaw 4:21:56; W Allen 4:21:56; A Steele 4:21:57; M Dean 4:21:58; E Henry 4:21:58; J Hilliard 4:21:58; B Shields 4:21:58; S Jefford 4:21:58; V Thakrar 4:21:59; B Bodycote 4:21:59; D Mansfield 4:21:59; L Simpkins 4:21:59; D Butler 4:21:59; D Laughton 4:21:59; S Wallen 4:22:00; J Russell 4:22:00; J Atherton 4:22:00; R Oliver 4:22:00.

13,401 J Chee 4:22:00; I Bradwell 4:22:00; R Jehan 4:22:00; K Hubbard 4:22:00; M Young *4:22:00; J Roseblade 4:22:01; R* Adams 4:22:01; K Bullock 4:22:01; D Holden 4:22:03; K Byron 4:22:03; P Seaton 4:22:03; P Chandler 4:22:03; N Longstaffe 4:22:04; S Foster 4:22:04; M Carlton 4:22:04; J Stannard 4:22:04; P Morgan 4:22:05; T Brown 4:22:05; J Cooke 4:22:05; A Moser 4:22:06; P Butters 4:22:06; G Evans 4:22:07; J Turner 4:22:07; J Arscott 4:22:08; S Costa 4:22:08; B Osullivan 4:22:08; G Ciaccia 4:22:09; G Stobbart 4:22:09; G Wretham 4:22:10; A Arnoldus 4:22:10; P Rushby 4:22:11; S Jardine 4:22:11; A Jones 4:22:11; P Weaver 4:22:11; L Chalmers 4:22:12; R Hulsman 4:22:12; S Firth 4:22:12; M Ivatt 4:22:12; D Lines 4:22:13; T Dodd 4:22:13; M Garnett 4:22:13; C Breakspear 4:22:13; S Chidwick 4:22:13; J Martin 4:22:14; B Lewis 4:22:14; M Kite 4:22:14; S Burrows 4:22:14; K Franks 4:22:15; A Ball 4:22:16; R Smith 4:22:16; R Birch 4:22:16; D Van Wyk 4:22:16; J Roel 4:22:17; R Pearce 4:22:17; S Gascoigne 4:22:17; G Roberts 4:22:17; J Bishop 4:22:17; C Anderson 4:22:17; A Curtis 4:22:17; R Roome 4:22:17; G Cavalieri 4:22:18; I Harryman 4:22:18; M Alsworth 4:22:18; S Fletcher 4:22:19; M *North 4:22:19; P Hennessy* 4:22:19; M Groves 4:22:20; J Brown 4:22:20; A Stickley 4:22:20; A Thomason 4:22:21; A Latham 4:22:21; D Hill 4:22:22; N Milner 4:22:22; A Dingenouts 4:22:23; J Parsons 4:22:24; D McIsaac 4:22:24; J Canter 4:22:24; N Hooton 4:22:24; D Mardle 4:22:24; A Coyston 4:22:27; G Barret 4:22:27; G Wilkinson 4:22:27; N Makin 4:22:28; C Jones 4:22:28; S Wood 4:22:28; M Clarke 4:22:28; A Walsh 4:22:29; J Pett 4:22:29; K Harris 4:22:29; M Ingram 4:22:29; M Wiltshire 4:22:29; R Thomas 4:22:29; S *Caton 4:22:30; D Atkins 4:22:30; M* Symonds 4:22:30; C Radcliffe 4:22:30; P Tofield 4:22:30; L Skinner 4:22:31; P Rowberry 4:22:32; P Walton 4:22:32.

13,501 I Gordon 4:22:32; P Buys 4:22:32; M Carruthers 4:22:32; M Canivet 4:22:34; D Ingalls 4:22:34; D Wright 4:22:35; M Sheahan 4:22:35; C Ashcroft 4:22:35; C Buckingham 4:22:35; R Chalke 4:22:36; J Harding 4:22:36; A Schofield 4:22:37; L Allen 4:22:37; J Firth 4:22:37; S Hunn 4:22:37; C Down 4:22:38; M Stone 4:22:38; J Manford 4:22:39; D Lee 4:22:39; E Torz 4:22:39; B Werkman 4:22:40; F Doherty 4:22:40; S Jones 4:22:40; D Winder 4:22:40; G Brooks 4:22:40; M Bain 4:22:40; K Truscott 4:22:40; J Williams 4:22:40; S Craddock 4:22:40; C Dove 4:22:40; K Wynne 4:22:40; S Ramsay 4:22:40; P Adcock 4:22:40; J Craig 4:22:41; J Charlton 4:22:41; P Tomlin 4:22:41; G Howells 4:22:41; K Jones 4:22:41; N Gyde 4:22:41; M David 4:22:42; D Boles 4:22:42; J Gurr 4:22:42; P Ford 4:22:42; G Vigara 4:22:42; R Traynor 4:22:43; R Atkinson 4:22:43; G Browning 4:22:43; R Hauer 4:22:44; M Lanterna 4:22:45; N Carbonne 4:22:45; F Rao 4:22:46; D Jones 4:22:46; G Harling 4:22:47; G Cork 4:22:47; M Edwards 4:22:47; I Roubi 4:22:49; A Roberts 4:22:49; A Gardner 4:22:49; R Reynolds 4:22:50; R Soderberg 4:22:50; P Sharland 4:22:50; S Lock 4:22:50; R Woods 4:22:51; A Dawson 4:22:51; D Van Puyvelde 4:22:52; J D Laws 4:22:52; N Sleep 4:22:52; T Foster 4:22:54; G Hagan 4:22:54; T Shilling 4:22:54; W Lepee 4:22:54; T Dibben A Amanuma 4:22:54; G Terry 4:22:55; C McPaul 4:22:55; Q Hill 4:22:56; M Bunce 4:22:56; A Tucker 4:22:57; J Boardman 4:22:57; M Mason 4:22:57; R Stokes 4:22:57; S Manning 4:22:57; S Hayton 4:22:58; C Church 4:22:59; S Qureshi 4:22:59; S Oates 4:23:00; B Bruade 4:23:01; D Martindale 4:23:01; R Adams 4:23:04; R Foulkes 4:23:05; D Ansell 4:23:05; G Smith 4:23:05; *G Miller 4:23:06;* B Gillespie 4:23:06; D Steer 4:23:06; P McSparron 4:23:07; P Ratcliffe 4:23:07; J Hightower 4:23:07; K Lovering 4:23:08; C Wright 4:23:08.

13,601 A Goglia 4:23:08; Z Cocksedge 4:23:09; D Coleman 4:23:09; T Hoffman 4:23:09; K Browning 4:23:10; A Tyas 4:23:10; L Voong 4:23:10; E Kenyon 4:23:10; H Kristensen 4:23:10; G Cooke 4:23:11; I Sullivan 4:23:11; B Mitchell 4:23:11; R Hodges 4:23:12; P Harrison 4:23:12; J Field 4:23:12; J Oliver 4:23:12; D Conway *4:23:12;* B Bilgorri 4:23:12; B Leonards 4:23:12; K Harris 4:23:12; K Johnston 4:23:12; E Lockhart 4:23:12; D Pass 4:23:13; B Mouazan 4:23:13; P Colepeper 4:23:14; A Arbizu 4:23:15; P Cherry 4:23:15; R Bailey 4:23:16; D Cable 4:23:16; G Cloud 4:23:16; R Corbett 4:23:16; B Webster 4:23:17; B Walker 4:23:17; J Macmillan 4:23:17; O Olsen 4:23:17; M Dyer 4:23:17; M Palmer 4:23:17; B King 4:23:17; R Negre 4:23:18; D Wayth 4:23:18; D Byrne 4:23:19; K Diele 4:23:19; P Berry 4:23:19; D Hutchinson 4:23:20; R Cawston 4:23:21; A Thomas 4:23:21; G Price 4:23:22; R Anness 4:23:22; A Armstrong 4:23:23; S Paterson 4:23:23; P Webb 4:23:24; M Arnold 4:23:25; J Ford 4:23:25; B Schoen 4:23:25; L Taylor 4:23:25; K Hodkin 4:23:26; D Wibberley 4:23:26; J Sturley 4:23:26; S Fitzpatrick 4:23:27; F Butcher 4:23:27; D Hall 4:23:28; S Hitchcock 4:23:28; R Hillier 4:23:28; A Aylward 4:23:28; J Wright 4:23:28; R Simpson 4:23:29; M Peake 4:23:29; U Pfisterer 4:23:30; J Bond 4:23:30; J Norman 4:23:31; G Sharpe 4:23:31; A Cheesman 4:23:31; P Stacey 4:23:31; C Maruyama 4:23:33; N Obrien 4:23:33; F Dupree 4:23:33; D Whittaker 4:23:33; P Mitchell 4:23:33; J Hamblin 4:23:33; H Morgans 4:23:33; P Cuffe 4:23:34; G Callow 4:23:34; E Scoggins 4:23:34; B Sheldon 4:23:35; G Toms 4:23:35; M Neuhauser 4:23:35; C Brace 4:23:35; J Lappage 4:23:36; S Ford 4:23:36; M Jackson 4:23:36; H Vasseur 4:23:36; C Miel 4:23:36; B Bahia 4:23:36; F Gilbertson 4:23:36; K Wright 4:23:37; P Davies 4:23:37; A Dulin 4:23:37; D Kostros 4:23:37; A Slater 4:23:38; A Pate 4:23:38.

13,701 S Howe 4:23:38; N Whittle *4:23:38; P Marshall 4:23:38;* G Hesketh 4:23:38; T Taylor 4:23:38; D Watson 4:23:39; N Cahill 4:23:39; T Humphreys 4:23:39; P Walton 4:23:39; P Greenwood 4:23:39; E Lovering 4:23:39; D Greenwood 4:23:39; G Allsopp 4:23:40; D Irwood 4:23:40; G Pike 4:23:41; R Whitmore 4:23:41; K Brown 4:23:41; D Davies 4:23:41; C Flood 4:23:42; S Andre 4:23:42; D Heyes 4:23:42; D Neyland 4:23:42; L Cleaver 4:23:43; A Gadoros 4:23:43; J Dovey 4:23:43; K Clark 4:23:43; C Cottrell 4:23:44; S Gordon 4:23:45; W Davidson 4:23:46; P Naish 4:23:46; A Kenny 4:23:46; E Robothan 4:23:47; M Barnes 4:23:47; L Bate 4:23:47; J Poppie 4:23:48; T Ackerman 4:23:48; S Donaldson 4:23:48; M Klincke 4:23:49; N McCarthy 4:23:49; J Rambridge 4:23:49; G Goldsmith 4:23:49; F Pincelli 4:23:49; M Calzolari 4:23:49; D Moscrod 4:23:49; C Cochrane 4:23:50; P Ross 4:23:50; A Bealer 4:23:50; S Ross 4:23:50; M Gradwell 4:23:51; Y Pumford 4:23:51; J Manson 4:23:51; D Baldwin 4:23:51; R Bonouvrier 4:23:51; F Faedo 4:23:51; H Probst 4:23:52; M Clerc 4:23:52; J Roe 4:23:52; M Everett 4:23:53; S Dale 4:23:53; T Owen 4:23:53; J Oleary 4:23:53; G Lecomte 4:23:54; A Robinson 4:23:54; R Taylor 4:23:54; R Bream 4:23:54; R Mills 4:23:55; D King 4:23:56; N Mikkelsen 4:23:57; K Wright 4:23:58; W Roberts 4:23:58; J Hammond 4:23:58; S Meadows 4:23:58; S Berg 4:23:58; J Blackiston 4:23:59; J Holmes 4:23:59; A Sherwin 4:23:59; M Blake 4:23:59; C Smith 4:23:59; P Herbert 4:24:00; T Leddra 4:24:00; L Ritson 4:24:00; D Thomson 4:24:00; J Green 4:24:00; N Clarke 4:24:00; L Thomsen 4:24:00; L *Leeds 4:24:00; T Harris 4:24:00;* G Dawson 4:24:00; R Jenkins 4:24:00; G Niller 4:24:01; P Crosford 4:24:01; L Richardson 4:24:02; H Forkin 4:24:02; M Simons 4:24:02; M Preston 4:24:03; S Reeves 4:24:03; J Rossi 4:24:03; G O'Neill 4:24:04; M Gibson 4:24:04; J Jacobs 4:24:04.

13,801 S Smith 4:24:04; J Marriott 4:24:05; D Carney 4:24:05; C Hughes 4:24:05; G Bonewell 4:24:05; A Iglesias-Perez 4:24:05; S Vernon 4:24:05; T Green 4:24:05; J Hamon 4:24:05; P Williams 4:24:05; R Jones 4:24:05; S Bunker 4:24:05; M Tomordy 4:24:05; A Woods 4:24:05; P Carr 4:24:06; B Bentley 4:24:06; M Proto 4:24:06; M Lewis 4:24:07; J Wild 4:24:07; M Stephenson 4:24:07; E Partridge 4:24:07; G Hurley 4:24:08; J Merkel 4:24:08; S Brooks 4:24:08; D Tailor 4:24:08; S Cain 4:24:08; A Hicklin 4:24:08; S Whillis 4:24:08; K Griffin 4:24:08; K Mott 4:24:08; O Kristrom 4:24:09; G Berthann 4:24:09; J Taylor 4:24:09; S Walker 4:24:09; M Challinor 4:24:10; F Caddick 4:24:10; R Morris 4:24:11; A Howlett 4:24:11; M Wainwright 4:24:11; S Tunney 4:24:12; R De Vleminck 4:24:12; J Edwards 4:24:12; S Winney 4:24:13; J *Edwards 4:24:13;* G Walker 4:24:13; L O'Neill 4:24:13; M Harris 4:24:13; M Pike 4:24:13; A Carr 4:24:13; N Walder 4:24:14; L Slight 4:24:14; D Bentley 4:24:14; L Jones 4:24:15; J Hopkinson 4:24:15; J Doering 4:24:15; J Gough 4:24:16; J Laurenson 4:24:16; E Martel 4:24:17; D Lilley 4:24:17; D Mole 4:24:17; P Geraghty 4:24:18; T Shea 4:24:18; D Timson 4:24:18; N Alley 4:24:18; D Wilkie 4:24:19; T Millest 4:24:19; U Tscharntke 4:24:19; S Pritchard 4:24:20; L Mathy 4:24:20; M Barrett 4:24:20; P Whittaker 4:24:21; P Whitaker 4:24:21; S *Jackson 4:24:21;* B Hidgkiss 4:24:21; D Wills 4:24:22; R Houston 4:24:22; R Weekes 4:24:22; N Milbeau 4:24:22; P Hughes 4:24:22; M Silk 4:24:23; R Fraser 4:24:23; J Bourgaize 4:24:24; K Webb 4:24:24; P Ounsley 4:24:24; A Skerratt 4:24:25; C Henderson 4:24:25; H Letman 4:24:25; P Whitlock 4:24:26; G Beckett 4:24:27; D Fowler 4:24:27; S Barnett 4:24:27; R White 4:24:28; S Finnerty 4:24:29; R Laird 4:24:29; D Barnett 4:24:29; W Bowden 4:24:30; T Phillips 4:24:30; M Exall 4:24:30; X Fontenier 4:24:31; J Edwards 4:24:31.

13,901 L Ferguson 4:24:31; J Hockin 4:24:31; S Stocks 4:24:32; P McGlynn 4:24:32; P Ditchfield 4:24:32; K Peters 4:24:33; H Austin 4:24:33; A Green 4:24:33; G Johnston 4:24:34; H Oliver 4:24:34; S Rae 4:24:34; W Bonell 4:24:35; G Hopkins 4:24:35; J Mayhew 4:24:36; D Allaway 4:24:36; M Wakerell 4:24:36; P Stanbridge 4:24:36; B Kelly 4:24:36; S Perry 4:24:36; P Holdcroft 4:24:37; S Lumsden 4:24:37; M Storer 4:24:37; B Janes 4:24:37; I Jeffrey 4:24:37; *C Pope* 4:24:38; R Neale 4:24:38; S Tritton 4:24:38; G Dunbar 4:24:38; G Nicholls 4:24:38; D Ingram 4:24:38; B Furness 4:24:38; T Crysell 4:24:38; R Marsh 4:24:38; R Byrd 4:24:39; A Smith 4:24:39; H Myles 4:24:39; R Vanel 4:24:40; R Smith 4:24:40; G Goode 4:24:40; P Hinde 4:24:41; A McShane 4:24:41; M McGruddy 4:24:41; T Hunter 4:24:42; P Bourgoin 4:24:42; A Culverwell 4:24:42; J McCamley 4:24:42; B Bemmer 4:24:42; T Gallagher 4:24:42; B Sutcliffe 4:24:43; M Watts 4:24:43; D Pay 4:24:43; J Goodchild 4:24:44; M Hollis 4:24:44; I Jonasson 4:24:45; S Gray 4:24:45; T McCarthy 4:24:45; K Elliott 4:24:45; J Angiim 4:24:45; M Allwood 4:24:46; M Griggs 4:24:47; C Lowrey 4:24:47; A Clark 4:24:47; P Smith 4:24:47; T Woodhouse 4:24:48; C Fagan 4:24:48; D Dougherty 4:24:49; D Latham 4:24:49; G Wenker 4:24:49; B Kennedy 4:24:50; R Harju 4:24:50; D Pipe 4:24:50; D Ghebbano 4:24:50; T Clark 4:24:50; K De Kloet 4:24:50; J Venhius 4:24:50; J Elder 4:24:51; B Page 4:24:51; D Willox 4:24:51; S Roe 4:24:51; M O'Dwyer 4:24:52; M Jenner 4:24:52; N Bradley 4:24:53; S Wardlaw 4:24:53; V Batten 4:24:53; S Rivers 4:24:53; R Claridge 4:24:54; A Howells 4:24:54; S Seymour 4:24:54; S Edmund 4:24:55; H Viezens 4:24:55; D Potter 4:24:56; B Phillips 4:24:56; R Wilson 4:24:56; M Wise 4:24:56; K Allen 4:24:56; A Sankey 4:24:56; B Lawrence 4:24:56; T Cotter 4:24:56; K Harrison 4:24:56; M Burrell 4:24:57.

14,001 C Fernandez 4:24:57; P Bruce 4:24:58; B Lawlor 4:24:58; J Evans 4:24:58; D Smith 4:24:59; A Trott 4:24:59; S Henry 4:24:59; G Clarke 4:25:00; A Wilcox 4:25:00; M Joyner 4:25:00; A Burrows 4:25:00; P McMahon 4:25:00; L Duncan 4:25:01; B Crumpton 4:25:01; D Evans 4:25:02; P Murphy 4:25:02; G Parsons 4:25:02; J Morgan 4:25:03; A Esteve 4:25:03; P Daines 4:25:03; L Gregory 4:25:03; D Elliott 4:25:04; *D Campbell-Dunlop 4:25:04;* T Metcalfe 4:25:04; N Parkinson 4:25:04; J Linca 4:25:05; D Martin 4:25:05; M Litchfield 4:25:05; A Pelosse 4:25:05; N Farmer 4:25:05; D Jacobs 4:25:06; A Lebeau 4:25:06; G Hopkins 4:25:06; S Howard 4:25:06; L Wilkins 4:25:07; G Dubois 4:25:07; D Gates 4:25:08; F Lloyd 4:25:09; A Hasler 4:25:09; M Crane 4:25:11; T Hilden 4:25:11; J Griffith 4:25:11; C O'Mara 4:25:14; D Jones 4:25:15; L Barker 4:25:16; B Cantle 4:25:16; P Denny 4:25:16; R Carson 4:25:16; R Kehoe 4:25:17; C Mitchell 4:25:17; D Butt 4:25:17; P *Meads 4:25:18; R Sears 4:25:18;* K Henderson 4:25:19; G Salmon 4:25:19; M Smith 4:25:19; K Richards 4:25:19; J Chesters 4:25:20; U Fay 4:25:20; R Fay 4:25:20; M Day 4:25:20; A Giles 4:25:20; T Norton 4:25:20; P Summons 4:25:21; C Norton 4:25:22; A Barton 4:25:22; G Reynolds 4:25:22; M Hegarty 4:25:22; A Chapman 4:25:23; D Gibson 4:25:23; P Miles 4:25:23; G Jones 4:25:24; M Welton 4:25:24; W Denning 4:25:24; J Taplata 4:25:24; V Jupe 4:25:25; B Thorne 4:25:25; E Peel 4:25:27; A Faussier 4:25:27; J Monaghan 4:25:27; T *O'Reilly 4:25:27;* D Macdonald-Taylor 4:25:28; A Christian 4:25:28; D Jewell 4:25:28; J Edmiston 4:25:28; B Wilkinson 4:25:28; V Price 4:25:28; K Parker 4:25:29; A Revell 4:25:29; M Lawford 4:25:29; N Holmes 4:25:29; L Paivre 4:25:29; I Walters 4:25:30; E Williams 4:25:30; K Hicks 4:25:30; W Walsh 4:25:30; A O'Shea 4:25:30; R Stafford 4:25:30; G Gimson 4:25:30; E Rose 4:25:30.

14,101 R Bronzo 4:25:32; R Lambert 4:25:32; A Eley 4:25:33; M Strutt 4:25:33; M Sutty 4:25:34; G Thurgood 4:25:34; N McCunnell 4:25:34; R Blackler 4:25:35; R Clark 4:25:35; S Naylor 4:25:35; J Cole 4:25:36; L Harris-Ward 4:25:36; M Griffiths 4:25:36; R Ross 4:25:37; S Thomson 4:25:37; E Hendry 4:25:38; K Gulliver 4:25:38; J Bryant 4:25:38; M Peters 4:25:39; I Kirton 4:25:39; J Wilkinson 4:25:39; D Irons 4:25:40; J Letard 4:25:40; S Foster 4:25:40; D Devey 4:25:41; T Mills 4:25:41; S Dyer 4:25:42; H Sosabowski 4:25:42; C Kivisto 4:25:42; L Simmonds 4:25:42; M Orth 4:25:42; P Thompson 4:25:42; A Meers 4:25:43; J Bembridge 4:25:43; M Blackman *4:25:43; A Stevens 4:25:43; C Hill* 4:25:44; A Pickard 4:25:44; T Adby 4:25:44; I Hall 4:25:44; A King 4:25:45; R Combellack 4:25:45; G Walker 4:25:45; S Thomson 4:25:45; D Edwards 4:25:45; M Suzuki 4:25:47; D Stubbs 4:25:47; T Lander 4:25:48; V Shorrock 4:25:48; P Daniels 4:25:49; C Doran 4:25:49; A Wilkins 4:25:49; K Sugimura 4:25:50; T Ringland 4:25:50; R Keating 4:25:51; P McGahan 4:25:51; S Parsons 4:25:51; O Fayemi 4:25:52; J Hilton 4:25:52; R Kellner 4:25:53; A Lyon-Dean 4:25:53; J Thompson 4:25:54; D Taylor 4:25:54; K Wood *4:25:54; J Bauffigeau 4:25:54;* C Foreman 4:25:54; N Swinden 4:25:55; T Nutt 4:25:55; S Fisher 4:25:55; A Escott 4:25:55; R Weeks 4:25:55; R Wagner 4:25:55; R Richardson 4:25:55; M Hudson 4:25:56; P Mosley 4:25:56; M Williams 4:25:56; D Craigie 4:25:56; J Ross 4:25:57; K Roe 4:25:57; J Brown 4:25:57; B Gallimore 4:25:57; J Natusch 4:25:57; P Laurent 4:25:57; M Brook 4:25:57; J Kartz 4:25:57; R Jones 4:25:57; N Meldrum 4:25:57; J Cartwright 4:25:57; J Marney 4:25:57; A Dechaud 4:25:58; J Evans 4:25:58; E Roessler 4:25:58; P Williams 4:25:58; A Moore 4:25:59; P Munton 4:25:59; J Simmonds 4:26:00; D Kay 4:26:00; G Rogerson 4:26:00; K Mintjens 4:26:01; D Harel 4:26:01.

14,201 J Derbyshire 4:26:01; B Stone 4:26:01; J Burton 4:26:02; G Allermann 4:26:02; J Koenig 4:26:02; G Robinson 4:26:03; S Wren 4:26:03; B Dolan 4:26:03; S Vanstone 4:26:03; R Mazuir 4:26:03; L Oldfield 4:26:04; T Shiel 4:26:04; N Rate 4:26:04; C Williams 4:26:04; E Strudwick 4:26:05; A Johnson 4:26:05; A Odicino 4:26:05; B Lusby 4:26:06; R Calderwood 4:26:06; T McFarlane 4:26:06; C Mackinnon 4:26:07; M Knott 4:26:07; J Adams 4:26:07; M Sands 4:26:07; K Smith 4:26:08; U Heindl 4:26:08; B Madelin 4:26:08; G Hughes 4:26:08; P Willis 4:26:08; S Bertoletti 4:26:09; J McCulloch 4:26:09; T Harris 4:26:09; C Laidlaw 4:26:09; J Mortassagne 4:26:09; S Ray 4:26:09; M McIntosh 4:26:09; S Gibbons 4:26:09; N Horsley 4:26:09; G Smith 4:26:09; B Jacques 4:26:09; L Gardiner 4:26:09; B Duperret 4:26:09; C Antoine 4:26:09; P Marivier 4:26:09; C Thompson 4:26:09; P Goodwin 4:26:10; M Dussaume 4:26:10; D Gillett 4:26:10; G Godfrey 4:26:10; J Longton 4:26:10; R Hutchings 4:26:10; F Smith 4:26:10; A Carr 4:26:11; W Robertson 4:26:11; P Burgess 4:26:12; S Cherry 4:26:12; P O'Shea 4:26:13; R Wood 4:26:14; K Callender 4:26:14; B Jones 4:26:14; M Ryan 4:26:14; I Jacques 4:26:15; P Kitson 4:26:15; C Adcock 4:26:15; C Jarvis 4:26:16; T Grabauskas 4:26:16; A Cumming 4:26:16; M Hussey 4:26:16; D Halley 4:26:16; J Lloyd 4:26:17; K Moroney 4:26:17; M Swift 4:26:18; M Jordan 4:26:18; L Peunet 4:26:19; D Moore 4:26:19; M Bailey 4:26:19; H Weston 4:26:19; P Wedge 4:26:20; G Taylor 4:26:20; M Huon 4:26:20; M Curtis 4:26:20; B Gunning 4:26:20; J Aldridge 4:26:21; P Maddison 4:26:21; I Macgregor 4:26:21; P Bellamy 4:26:21; R Peck 4:26:21; M Holmes 4:26:21; C Brasca 4:26:21; K Evans 4:26:21; J Puricelli 4:26:21; P Whitaker 4:26:21; D Coppock 4:26:21; D Firmstone 4:26:21; P Crane 4:26:22; D East 4:26:22; A Burns 4:26:23; J Reader 4:26:23; S Mockett 4:26:23; N Kent 4:26:23.

14,301 B Gill-Stafford 4:26:23; P Coombs 4:26:23; J Paraky 4:26:23; I Radford 4:26:23; D Wickes 4:26:23; D Avisse 4:26:23; I Winney 4:26:23; R Winney

[illegible]

FLORA LONDON MARATHON

4:26:24; M Harries 4:26:24; C Wild 4:26:25; J Grumbles 4:26:27; R Knight 4:26:27; R Dulk 4:26:29; R Chauvin 4:26:29; P Blaettler 4:26:30; G Sinkovec 4:26:30; N Bellon 4:26:31; P Wermter 4:26:32; P Hern 4:26:34; K Young 4:26:34; P Smith 4:26:35; L Boyer 4:26:35; J McKellar 4:26:35; A Dean 4:26:36; C How 4:26:36; R Barraclough 4:26:36; R Glass 4:26:38; E Kippax 4:26:38; C Fraser 4:26:38; L Daniela 4:26:39; S Gerard 4:26:39; P Rawson 4:26:39; K Gilson 4:26:39; N Le Seur 4:26:39; M O'Hara 4:26:40; J McVay 4:26:40; J McCulloch 4:26:40; J Price 4:26:40; R Newey 4:26:40; C Gerrard 4:26:40; J Laedre 4:26:41; P Firmin 4:26:41; C Wright 4:26:42; S Brayford 4:26:42; K Webster 4:26:42; D Bearwish 4:26:42; R Gibbs 4:26:43; A Forsyth 4:26:43; R James 4:26:44; L Arundale Burns 4:26:44; I Gill 4:26:45; J Willard 4:26:45; J Mermod 4:26:45; B Sparshott 4:26:46; B Coulthread 4:26:46; J Hawkins 4:26:46; P Anken 4:26:47; B Carrasco 4:26:47; N Catchpole 4:26:48; K White 4:26:48; C Ryan 4:26:48; J Arundale Burns 4:26:48; Y Garderet 4:26:48; B Kearns 4:26:48; C Chambers 4:26:49; K Rusbridge 4:26:50; C Godfrey 4:26:50; T Reeve 4:26:51; S Elliott 4:26:52; R Ambler 4:26:53; J Moore 4:26:53; D Martin 4:26:53; A Gilliam 4:26:53; G Blaine 4:26:53; P Woolford 4:26:53; T Smee 4:26:54; T Biggs-Davison 4:26:55; H Lowther 4:26:55; C Bradshaw 4:26:56; D Perrott 4:26:56; J Crocker 4:26:56; R Williams 4:26:56; A Larson 4:26:56; M Potts 4:26:57; A Dovigen Davis 4:26:57; K Pike 4:26:57; A Singh 4:26:57; R Ulbrich 4:26:57; R Jackson 4:26:57; J Heywood 4:26:57; G Tychowski 4:26:58; A Fleming 4:26:58; B Pieper 4:26:59; M O'Reilly 4:26:59; R Davies 4:26:59; G Ward 4:27:00; M Sheibani 4:27:00; P Jones 4:27:00; P Kane 4:27:00; S Jones 4:27:01.

14,401 S Dawson 4:27:01; D Muddimer 4:27:01; C Smith 4:27:01; D Griffiths 4:27:01; A McDonnell 4:27:01; M Keogh 4:27:02; P Burtt 4:27:02; G Tomlinson 4:27:03; B Lane 4:27:03; S Hamblin 4:27:04; S Cole 4:27:05; P Entwistle 4:27:06; M Nicholls 4:27:06; G Bradshaw 4:27:06; S Harvey 4:27:06; C Wilson 4:27:07; D Pearce 4:27:07; M McLoughlin 4:27:07; R Broad 4:27:07; A Denning 4:27:08; N Kenward 4:27:09; P Edwards 4:27:09; R Gray 4:27:10; N Bailey 4:27:10; H Adamson 4:27:11; L Easom 4:27:11; N Parrish 4:27:11; R Cruickshank 4:27:11; S Gilbert 4:27:11; N Proctor 4:27:11; D Green 4:27:11; J Warden-Jones 4:27:11; C Goodsall 4:27:11; E Oddie 4:27:11; P Cannell 4:27:11; P Huntingdon 4:27:12; C Shaw 4:27:12; M Goodyear 4:27:12; R Ward 4:27:12; I Harlow 4:27:12; E Helmert 4:27:13; A Hudson 4:27:13; M McNeil 4:27:13; J Jackson 4:27:14; K Micallef-Stafrace 4:27:14; S Moore 4:27:14; M Johnson 4:27:14; S Mason 4:27:15; W Turnbull 4:27:15; W Kerr 4:27:16; M Walker 4:27:16; P Mansell 4:27:16; S Wolf 4:27:17; G Brownhill 4:27:17; J Clifton 4:27:18; G Brewin 4:27:19; T Brill 4:27:19; M Lane 4:27:20; C Rose 4:27:20; T Witteman 4:27:20; M Snaith 4:27:21; R Evans 4:27:22; J Santavy 4:27:23; I Ashford-Thom 4:27:23; A Hope 4:27:24; L Millar 4:27:24; A Daws 4:27:24; R Barnard 4:27:24; T Wilmot 4:27:25; M Weiskirchen 4:27:26; K Suter 4:27:26; G Dacey 4:27:26; R Haeberli 4:27:26; P Hofmann 4:27:27; H Bratt 4:27:27; K Searle 4:27:27; J Holland 4:27:28; M Freedman 4:27:28; P McNally 4:27:28; G Maddrell 4:27:29; J Butter 4:27:29; J Brown 4:27:29; C Rees 4:27:29; L Owens 4:27:29; S Jones 4:27:30; M Ben Nathan 4:27:30; C Gruar 4:27:31; C Adams 4:27:31; W Mason 4:27:32; K Tucker 4:27:32; M Chatten 4:27:32; H John 4:27:32; P Woonton 4:27:33; J Tagliamonte 4:27:33; P Dines 4:27:34; C Shipton 4:27:34; R Mytton 4:27:35; G Peers 4:27:35; J Thomson 4:27:35; S Midgen 4:27:35.

14,501 J Davison 4:27:35; R Beilock 4:27:36; R Hart 4:27:36; J Dyer 4:27:37; E Cain 4:27:37; G Atherton 4:27:38; K Davis 4:27:38; C Dauris 4:27:38; J Dauris 4:27:38; J Frampton 4:27:38; T Perrin 4:27:38; R Dunn 4:27:38; R Hall 4:27:38; J Bennet 4:27:38; R Tancock 4:27:40; J Ward 4:27:40; W Kennedy 4:27:41; U Bingel 4:27:42; L Hall 4:27:42; R Jones 4:27:42; J Spindlow 4:27:42; J Raymond 4:27:42; C Mainwood 4:27:42; M Pronk 4:27:42; D Hazelden 4:27:42; P Bradford 4:27:42; S Morter 4:27:42; L Yap 4:27:42; C Howard 4:27:42; J North 4:27:43; S Webster 4:27:43; R Woolrich 4:27:44; A Armitage 4:27:46; R Best 4:27:47; R Carter 4:27:47; R Fraser 4:27:48; A Wade 4:27:48; H Weston 4:27:49; F Van Remoortere 4:27:49; G Vanremoortere 4:27:49; D Brown 4:27:49; A Hunt 4:27:50; J Walkey 4:27:50; R Young 4:27:50; A Gjertsen 4:27:50; J Fisher 4:27:50; S Coupland 4:27:51; B Anker 4:27:51; J Rigamonti 4:27:52; W Sheppard 4:27:52; S Schofield 4:27:53; J McElhinney 4:27:54; M Jones 4:27:54; M Collins 4:27:56; K Reed 4:27:56; A Pearse 4:27:56; R James Bowen 4:27:57; T Aslam 4:27:57; M Chattenton 4:27:57; F Webb 4:27:57; R Dalley 4:27:57; D Gibbs 4:27:58; G Rogers 4:27:58; R Caldwell 4:27:58; J Bolam 4:27:58; J Stupart 4:27:58; S Rae 4:27:59; R Hogsflesh 4:27:59; V Meechan 4:28:00; P Webster 4:28:00; S Brown 4:28:01; W Jenkin 4:28:01; A Smith 4:28:01; P Stanbridge 4:28:01; S Dridge 4:28:01; H Stuttard 4:28:01; A Gall 4:28:01; D Huggett 4:28:01; C Walker 4:28:01; J Adams 4:28:01; S Bateman 4:28:01; C Rowlinson 4:28:01; J Marsden 4:28:02; R Wheeler 4:28:03; I Wilkinson 4:28:03; L Huffenus 4:28:04; M Lowther 4:28:04; D Williams 4:28:05; M Delauney 4:28:05; N Kelleway 4:28:08; K Hayward 4:28:08; C Saunders 4:28:08; C Hook 4:28:08; J Ball 4:28:08; E Reed 4:28:08; M Shephard 4:28:08; E Quinn 4:28:08; R Hanke 4:28:09; T Everell 4:28:09; A King 4:28:09.

14,601 P Stancer 4:28:09; D Rhodes 4:28:10; B Nordin 4:28:10; C Maughan 4:28:10; D Simson 4:28:11; C Smith 4:28:11; A Wood 4:28:11; R Arnott 4:28:11; J Hodge 4:28:12; G Cramp 4:28:12; D Burke 4:28:12; L Andrews 4:28:13; M Forsyth 4:28:13; P Jenkins 4:28:13; B Humphreys 4:28:13; A Stonham 4:28:13; A Galloway 4:28:13; B Evison 4:28:13; M Green 4:28:13; J Lord 4:28:13; E Aguilera 4:28:14; A Aneiros 4:28:14; D Lyons 4:28:14; L Matabacas 4:28:14; N Perrins 4:28:14; J Clavell 4:28:15; E McKay 4:28:15; S Miles 4:28:15; S West 4:28:15; L Sagi 4:28:15; E Castro 4:28:15; R Diaz 4:28:16; B Tucker 4:28:16; F Prochasson 4:28:16; S Wusthoff 4:28:16; M Kemp 4:28:17; A Smith 4:28:17; W Evans 4:28:17; S Lincoln 4:28:17; K Rance 4:28:18; I Matthews 4:28:18; I Reakes 4:28:19; E Savage 4:28:19; G Josey 4:28:19; P Raven 4:28:19; J Hollands 4:28:19; S Doyle 4:28:19; K Tayar 4:28:19; C Carroll 4:28:19; M Leeson 4:28:19; A Purt 4:28:20; S Leeson 4:28:20; A Cooper 4:28:21; M Li 4:28:21; M Stanley 4:28:21; G Stanley 4:28:21; M Denny 4:28:21; M Brown 4:28:21; C Ashe 4:28:21; C Davison 4:28:21; E Stacey 4:28:21; A Lalivaux 4:28:21; S Chaltel 4:28:21; P Worthy 4:28:21; A Woolley 4:28:21; D Ramsden 4:28:21; A Pinnell 4:28:21; H Griffin 4:28:22; S Towndrow 4:28:22; N Ladouce 4:28:22; P Bach 4:28:23; J Seller 4:28:23; J L'enfant 4:28:23; P Fuller 4:28:24; H Avenell 4:28:24; A Dunning 4:28:24; O Sweet 4:28:24; D Sweet 4:28:25; M McNicholas 4:28:26; S Powell 4:28:26; D Stork 4:28:26; J Fuller 4:28:26; G Simon 4:28:26; M Mortreux 4:28:28; A Mortreux 4:28:29; C Bearfield-Smith 4:28:29; R Smith 4:28:31; M Hopkins 4:28:31; V Wells 4:28:32; J Flynn 4:28:32; P Wells 4:28:32; B Holme 4:28:33; S Leaver 4:28:35; B Fordham 4:28:35; A Petrides 4:28:35; S Haben 4:28:36; P Paillaud 4:28:36; D Smithers 4:28:36; R Oakes 4:28:36; P Samson 4:28:37.

14,701 A Barrett 4:28:37; G Pilkington 4:28:37; G Portmann 4:28:37; V Seehase 4:28:37; M Bugg 4:28:38; N Wells 4:28:38; J Baggs 4:28:38; H Laufenberg 4:28:39; L Fereres 4:28:39; P Trafford 4:28:39; A Jones 4:28:39; C Wilson 4:28:39; T Williams 4:28:39; A Ruia 4:28:39; B Pinder 4:28:40; S Nash 4:28:40; D Owen 4:28:40; A Kenna 4:28:40; T Keeley 4:28:40; P Gordon 4:28:40; V Barker 4:28:41; R Simpson 4:28:41; S Peters 4:28:42; C Marques 4:28:42; A Stach-Kevitz 4:28:42; R Whitelaw 4:28:42; J Salmon 4:28:43; R Pitts 4:28:43; W Bruid 4:28:43; R Gryzowski 4:28:43; M Bennett 4:28:43; A D'hoine 4:28:43; B Rochas 4:28:44; G Skeggs 4:28:44; S Clark 4:28:44; R Mikielski 4:28:44; J Stokes 4:28:44; J White 4:28:44; R Hill 4:28:44; G Wilson 4:28:44; G Allun 4:28:44; J Wallsgrove 4:28:44; A Mellor 4:28:44; O Jones 4:28:45; D Owen 4:28:45; F McHarg 4:28:46; K Wilson 4:28:46; A Chapman 4:28:47; R Thompson 4:28:48; L Jordan 4:28:48; M O'Neill 4:28:49; A Titterington 4:28:49; J Drummie 4:28:49; G Hague-Holmes 4:28:49; P Wyhorn 4:28:49; P Cross 4:28:50; D Fields 4:28:50; J Leak 4:28:51; N Neale 4:28:51; J Frieters 4:28:51; B Webster 4:28:51; D Matthews 4:28:51; M Richards 4:28:52; T James 4:28:52; J Ross 4:28:52; S Taylor 4:28:53; D Whiteford 4:28:53; J Miller 4:28:54; C Howland 4:28:54; B Stoll 4:28:54; M Cook 4:28:54; A Jennings 4:28:54; J Micallef 4:28:54; P Daly 4:28:54; S Kennedy 4:28:54; B Anderson 4:28:54; A Kelley 4:28:55; B Smith 4:28:55; C Kirby 4:28:55; R Cripps 4:28:55; G Cripps 4:28:55; M Khatree 4:28:55; A Maessen 4:28:56; L Schaathun 4:28:57; D Thomas 4:29:00; C Webster 4:29:01; G Skern 4:29:01; T Poole 4:29:01; H Jones 4:29:01; B Southcott 4:29:03; G Schneider 4:29:03; A Ally 4:29:04; G McIntosh 4:29:04; A Brown 4:29:04; D Darge 4:29:05; W Fulgham 4:29:05; S Scargill 4:29:05; N Maggs 4:29:05; R Sadler 4:29:05; S Reidy 4:29:05.

14,801 T Gill 4:29:05; C Mennell 4:29:06; J Cottam 4:29:06; P Levy 4:29:07; G Partridge 4:29:07; J Biscombe 4:29:08; J Chant 4:29:08; D Thomson 4:29:08; L Morgan 4:29:09; A Mepham 4:29:09; M Duffy 4:29:10; S Britten 4:29:10; A Stone 4:29:10; A Clotworthy 4:29:11; D White 4:29:11; K Robbins 4:29:11; C Marshall 4:29:12; S Tebbutt 4:29:12; D Rowe 4:29:13; K Barnes 4:29:13; A Middleton 4:29:13; G Bryham 4:29:13; D Ashmore 4:29:13; M Atkinson 4:29:14; D Wilcox 4:29:14; P Bengtsson 4:29:14; R Howard 4:29:14; P McKay 4:29:14; R Sutton 4:29:14; D Laycock 4:29:14; D Songhurst 4:29:14; T Evancic 4:29:15; P Andrews 4:29:15; R Kemlo 4:29:16; R Topping 4:29:16; D Simpson 4:29:16; S Sundberg 4:29:16; J Coulling 4:29:16; D Sullivan 4:29:17; M Lowson 4:29:17; P Darby 4:29:17; O Samson 4:29:18; W Blake 4:29:18; C Ward 4:29:18; I Wood 4:29:19; J Brogden 4:29:19; R Kynzfeld 4:29:19; C Helliwell 4:29:19; G Cinque 4:29:20; D Bennett 4:29:20; J Duddy 4:29:20; E Gearing 4:29:20; P Hannam 4:29:21; J Evans 4:29:21; L Hanley 4:29:21; S Ryde 4:29:21; M Pyper 4:29:22; S Kramer 4:29:22; J Fenoull 4:29:22; S Geoghegan 4:29:22; L Parry 4:29:22; K Blackburn 4:29:22; R Bryant 4:29:22; H McConville 4:29:23; D Desrame 4:29:23; G Barton 4:29:23; A Parsons 4:29:23; P Willan 4:29:24; D Lene 4:29:24; R Robbins 4:29:24; P Mitchell 4:29:25; J Kitching 4:29:25; R Kraemer 4:29:26; T Maher 4:29:26; M Mitchell 4:29:28; B Marquardt 4:29:28; R Armstrong 4:29:29; R France 4:29:29; P Quinn 4:29:29; A Bolt 4:29:29; D Busfield 4:29:29; T Cox 4:29:29; J Murray 4:29:29; D Gladwell 4:29:29; C Round 4:29:30; M Hanton 4:29:30; M Wilkinson 4:29:31; M Carter 4:29:32; G Lightowlers 4:29:32; R North 4:29:33; R Dixon 4:29:36; C Chapman 4:29:36; N Lewis 4:29:36; A Kane 4:29:37; M Mella 4:29:37; M Jones 4:29:37; J Moggridge 4:29:37; R Edgar 4:29:38; L Smith 4:29:38; E Dunn 4:29:38.

14,901 R Parrish 4:29:38; C Raffa 4:29:38; N Nakamura 4:29:39; S Smith 4:29:40; E Oke 4:29:40; A Hindson 4:29:40; A Cowan 4:29:40; G Crow 4:29:40; E Kallen 4:29:40; R Wilson 4:29:41; S Taylor 4:29:41; M Williams 4:29:42; J Raffington 4:29:43; A Brotons 4:29:43; T Nash 4:29:43; C Gibson 4:29:45; R Templeton 4:29:45; R Macdonald 4:29:45; S Suter 4:29:46; N Potter 4:29:46; J Bowley 4:29:47; J Clark 4:29:47; G Gallo 4:29:47; A Barnes 4:29:48; R Smith 4:29:48; A Scudder 4:29:49; J Whiteaker 4:29:49; A Owens 4:29:49; F Pitt 4:29:49; D Gordon 4:29:50; D Young 4:29:50; A Petch 4:29:50; J Denison 4:29:50; R Heins 4:29:50; D Roper 4:29:50; A Longthorn 4:29:51; N Dix 4:29:51; E Hughes 4:29:51; J McNicholas 4:29:52; R Jeffries 4:29:52; E Locke 4:29:52; M Humphreys 4:29:52; P Wallis 4:29:52; N Good 4:29:53; S Marsden 4:29:53; J Cheston 4:29:54; C Cameron 4:29:54; K Millward 4:29:55; C Ohara 4:29:55; M Keating 4:29:56; P Parker 4:29:56; J Wiles 4:29:56; R Melroy 4:29:57; R Mansell 4:29:57; T Mikelas 4:29:57; A Burt 4:29:57; N Rouse 4:29:57; D Winfield 4:29:58; P Howard 4:29:59; B Shepherd 4:30:01; K Mistry 4:30:01; L Carlson-Hedges 4:30:02; J Roberts 4:30:02; M McNamara 4:30:02; E Anslow 4:30:03; J Lavin 4:30:03; V Markhasin 4:30:04; T Cecil 4:30:04; N Emblem-English 4:30:05; N Bunt 4:30:05; P Pacart 4:30:05; S Griffin 4:30:06; T Heffer 4:30:07; H Collins 4:30:08; P Jenkins 4:30:08; G Macdougall 4:30:08; L Alldridge 4:30:08; G Brown 4:30:08; E Clarke 4:30:08; F Smith 4:30:08; N Vigot 4:30:09; E Bottoms 4:30:09; B Jones 4:30:10; K Ashwell 4:30:10; M Vickers 4:30:11; S Cooke 4:30:11; T Robinson 4:30:11; T Sutherland 4:30:13; L Huster 4:30:14; C Thompson 4:30:14; T Lancaster 4:30:14; B Elliott 4:30:14; M Davis 4:30:14; A Morgan 4:30:15; M Fitzpatrick 4:30:16; G Davies 4:30:16; E Langley 4:30:16; M Singh 4:30:16; W Botha 4:30:16.

15,001 C Nesbitt 4:30:16; S Ohil 4:30:16; R Baldwin 4:30:16; P Ashmore 4:30:18; A Macgregor 4:30:18; J Fontaine 4:30:18; S Copeland 4:30:18; N Howells 4:30:18; D Roberts 4:30:18; D Bain 4:30:18; J Mokraoui 4:30:18; P Reay 4:30:18; D Johnson 4:30:18; R Dewson 4:30:18; A Ritson 4:30:18; I Olsson 4:30:18; J McClure 4:30:18; D Barrowclough 4:30:18; I Davies 4:30:18; G Gaspari 4:30:18; A Zanasi 4:30:18; W Brambam 4:30:18; C Tuckett 4:30:20; D Miessen 4:30:20; M Marshall 4:30:21; G Lister 4:30:23; J Dooley 4:30:26; A Mather 4:30:26; M Swarbrick 4:30:28; A Crawford 4:30:28; D Keltie 4:30:29; W Nelson 4:30:29; D Harris 4:30:29; P Dixon 4:30:29; P Riviere 4:30:29; R Lake 4:30:30; R Gilmore 4:30:30; J Greer 4:30:30; C Brooking 4:30:31; R Sammons 4:30:31; B Chauvie 4:30:31; E Enorre 4:30:32; I Carter 4:30:33; R Leather 4:30:33; R Maher 4:30:33; E Howard 4:30:33; T Wegg 4:30:34; T Bristow 4:30:34; M Cotton 4:30:34; R Graham 4:30:35; D Wells 4:30:35; P Rice 4:30:35; M Hill 4:30:35; G Trapp 4:30:35; D Cox 4:30:36; S Cox 4:30:36; A Rae 4:30:36; A Bacon 4:30:36; L Miller 4:30:36; I Meade 4:30:38; A Green 4:30:39; R Wresnsiwiro 4:30:39; P Jones 4:30:39; D Gladstone 4:30:39; C Williamson 4:30:39; R Richter 4:30:39; G Wigmore 4:30:39; M Bowden 4:30:39; S Clark 4:30:39; J Starbrook 4:30:39; R Peterson 4:30:39; S Anderson 4:30:39; L Gonzales 4:30:40; H Dehmel 4:30:40; G Strong 4:30:40; W Lemberger 4:30:40; C Parker 4:30:41; Y Brehmer 4:30:41; I Willey 4:30:41; R Dugdale 4:30:41; A Bidder 4:30:41; P Speakman 4:30:41; D Perkins 4:30:42; R Jones 4:30:42; D O'Sullivan 4:30:42; M Hobbs 4:30:42; S Holden 4:30:42; M Jones 4:30:43; W Hughes 4:30:43; R Phillips 4:30:43; D Durrant 4:30:43; J Lambert 4:30:43; N Durrant 4:30:44; T Williams 4:30:44; J Hanratty 4:30:45; J Beevers 4:30:45; M Pattison 4:30:45; N Hendricksen 4:30:45; S Corless 4:30:45; J Osborne 4:30:45.

15,101 A Snoad 4:30:45; G Millar 4:30:45; E Scott 4:30:45; G Ringshall 4:30:45; A Van Der Walt 4:30:45; J Pretorius 4:30:45; E Bennett 4:30:45; G Chiarabaglio 4:30:45; P Pesenti 4:30:45; C Galizot 4:30:45; S Williams 4:30:45; P Citron 4:30:45; A Jarvis 4:30:45; N Hutchinson 4:30:46; S Cuirns 4:30:46; V Henney 4:30:46; A Elsome 4:30:46; W Munson 4:30:46; V Martin 4:30:46; M Knight 4:30:46; D Mathieson 4:30:47; J O'Leary 4:30:47; A Sebastian 4:30:47; M Rapley 4:30:47; D Way 4:30:48; J Marsh 4:30:48; P Williams 4:30:48; T Gajewski 4:30:48; D Reed 4:30:49; K O'Keefe 4:30:49; S Brereton 4:30:50; P Gardner 4:30:50; G Ward 4:30:51; B Plant 4:30:51; J Williams 4:30:51; J Perkins 4:30:51; N Hodgkiss 4:30:52; J Kennedy 4:30:52; S Cargill 4:30:52; L Gilpin 4:30:52; C Graham 4:30:53; B Evans 4:30:53; S Dowdi 4:30:53; D Varney 4:30:53; M Vincent 4:30:54; R Tole 4:30:54; D Recksiegel 4:30:54; A Smart 4:30:54; M Derbidge 4:30:54; A Pye 4:30:54; D McKay 4:30:54; T Bennett 4:30:55; H Batsner 4:30:55; D Sprowell 4:30:55; R Foster 4:30:55; S Snow 4:30:56; M Stevens 4:30:56; J Guernari 4:30:56; D Grinham 4:30:56; J Andrews 4:30:56; R Slayford 4:30:56; J Millward 4:30:56; J Routledge 4:30:57; C Heap 4:30:57; S Bone 4:30:58; D Kings 4:30:59; G Roberts 4:31:00; R Wolff 4:31:01; D Llewellyn 4:31:03; A Brown 4:31:03; H Relf 4:31:03; M Dunn 4:31:04; A Trainor 4:31:05; W Fotheringham 4:31:06; D Lissenden 4:31:07; R Lown 4:31:08; R Iliffe 4:31:08; C Brown 4:31:08; A Jenrick 4:31:08; B Broughton 4:31:08; A Seccia 4:31:09; E McDowell 4:31:10; A Wright 4:31:10; M Waite 4:31:10; D Smithson 4:31:10; S Bulbaczynskyj 4:31:11; G Watts 4:31:11; R Aghanian 4:31:11; P Clarke 4:31:11; U Krueger 4:31:12; S Blakemore 4:31:12; G Prince 4:31:13; P Jephcote 4:31:13; J Martin 4:31:13; M Paget 4:31:13; W Wolf 4:31:14; A Griffin 4:31:14; R Poulter 4:31:14; D Oliver 4:31:14; N Cummings 4:31:14.

15,201 T Ito 4:31:14; R Ashworth 4:31:15; E Legard 4:31:15; K Carlton 4:31:15; P Hill 4:31:15; F Wiesmann 4:31:15; S Crawford 4:31:16; E Thorndahl 4:31:16; J Ohara 4:31:16; M Brown 4:31:17; E Hatfield 4:31:17; W Bilsland 4:31:18; A Roche 4:31:19; K Peake 4:31:19; S Hines 4:31:20; J Kilmurray 4:31:20; K Hickey 4:31:20; J Gillespie 4:31:20; E Jakubzick 4:31:20; N Dickinson 4:31:20; P Wallis 4:31:21; J Hren 4:31:22; A Whitehead 4:31:22; M Sainsbury 4:31:23; J Brantley 4:31:23; N Kirkpatrick 4:31:23; S Chamerlain 4:31:24; M Fasipe 4:31:24; E Almoayed 4:31:24; R Curry 4:31:24; R Bailey 4:31:24; M Longley 4:31:24; T Johnsenn 4:31:24; P Macgregor 4:31:24; K Hughes 4:31:24; L Eakle 4:31:24; B Spiering 4:31:24; F Wainwright 4:31:24; J Callsen 4:31:25; S Radcliffe 4:31:25; G Knott 4:31:25; H Smith 4:31:25; R Uppal 4:31:26; B Nahal 4:31:26; B Jacobsen 4:31:26; N Asare-Addy 4:31:26; L Saunders 4:31:26; P Waugh 4:31:27; J Wortham 4:31:27; G McEwan 4:31:27; R Spiteri 4:31:27; B Drake 4:31:27; D Jackson 4:31:27; A Keenan 4:31:27; D Woolgar 4:31:27; P Holdsworth 4:31:28; J Gibson 4:31:28; S Summerfield 4:31:28; A Madura 4:31:28; M Buckingham 4:31:28; D Alstowe 4:31:28; J Baldwin 4:31:29; J Haarala 4:31:30; R Parsons 4:31:30; A Travis 4:31:30; J Pouliquen 4:31:30; R Golding 4:31:31; N Bunclark 4:31:32; D McElroy 4:31:32; A Ostrowski 4:31:33; A Angell 4:31:33; H Ringgaard 4:31:35; Fernan 4:31:36; K Bibby 4:31:36; H Zahorovsky 4:31:36; T McDonnell 4:31:37; H Suttle 4:31:38; P O'Neill 4:31:38; R England 4:31:38; K Beck 4:31:38; V Ashton 4:31:38; G Constable 4:31:38; B Hargreaves 4:31:38; M Adamson 4:31:38; R Sales 4:31:38; C Smith 4:31:39; P Murray 4:31:39; S Dews 4:31:39; A Holzer 4:31:40; S Newman 4:31:40; S Hall 4:31:40; D Barton 4:31:40; H Taguchi 4:31:40; N Smith 4:31:40; W Pettit 4:31:40; S Watkins 4:31:40; E Gamble 4:31:40; S Hill 4:31:40; T Comfort 4:31:40; S Perks 4:31:40.

15,301 S Byrne 4:31:40; C Walker 4:31:41; S Potter 4:31:41; G Kirk 4:31:42; R Affleck 4:31:43; H Sokensen 4:31:44; K Sudan 4:31:44; J Macmurray 4:31:44; A Heaney 4:31:44; A Nielsen-Bredbjerg 4:31:44; C Hives 4:31:45; M Halse 4:31:47; T Williams 4:31:48; P Wray 4:31:48; J Lees 4:31:49; J Doyen 4:31:50; K Essam 4:31:50; D Brookes 4:31:50; P. Shearman 4:31:50; R Gutsell 4:31:51; R Neighbour 4:31:51; G Walton 4:31:52; S Wildblood 4:31:52; J Clayton 4:31:53; A Eveleigh 4:31:53; B Murphy 4:31:53; G Smith 4:31:53; C Walker 4:31:53; J Griffiths 4:31:54; S Spence 4:31:54; N Grenfell 4:31:55; K Brown 4:31:55; D Roberts 4:31:56; A Kelly 4:31:56; V Pruvost 4:31:56; E Hamel 4:31:56; M Reeves 4:31:57; P Spencer 4:31:57; D Carlisle 4:31:57; T Willey 4:31:58; R Donald 4:31:58; C Hardwick 4:31:58; S Roberts 4:31:58; B Smulders 4:31:59; E Taylor 4:31:59; D Taylor 4:31:59; A Jefferies 4:31:59; S Langdale 4:31:59; P Mossing 4:31:59; P Bruce 4:31:59; M Elling 4:31:59; D James 4:31:59; G Terry 4:32:00; C Pickering 4:32:00; A Roberts 4:32:00; A Hunter 4:32:01; J Garratt 4:32:01; P Shaw 4:32:01; T Livsey 4:32:01; E Joyce 4:32:02; C Smith 4:32:02; S Tonkin 4:32:02; D Spence 4:32:02; R Crisp 4:32:02; C Frankland 4:32:03; D Kelly 4:32:03; G Clarke 4:32:03; A Bird 4:32:04; D Taylor 4:32:04; A Gilliver 4:32:04; S Ryles 4:32:04; S Smith 4:32:04; D Challenor 4:32:04; B Heintz 4:32:06; T Humphreys 4:32:06; J Robinson 4:32:06; S Gaunt 4:32:06; S Bostock 4:32:07; P Dixon 4:32:08; P Painter 4:32:08; M Pereira 4:32:09; J West 4:32:09; C Rowlands 4:32:09; N Spencer 4:32:10; R King 4:32:10; P Munday 4:32:10; C Quinn 4:32:11; K Brown 4:32:11; T Hioms 4:32:11; P Northern 4:32:12; D Whittle 4:32:13; K Higgs 4:32:13; A Peel 4:32:13; M Louca 4:32:14; A Raby 4:32:14; C Correa 4:32:14; L Talbott 4:32:14; S Micallef 4:32:14; P Kirwan 4:32:15; S Richardson 4:32:15.

15,401 C Mountford 4:32:15; S Lourie 4:32:16; N Gay 4:32:16; S Humphris 4:32:16; V Porter 4:32:16; L Cassidy 4:32:16; D Power 4:32:16; M Stuart 4:32:16; K Yoshida 4:32:16; E Woods 4:32:16; L Woods 4:32:16; B Humbert 4:32:16; C Jean-Pierre 4:32:16; W Vogel 4:32:16; N Clark 4:32:16; G S 4:32:16; P Maitre 4:32:17; R Jenkins 4:32:18; R Fleming 4:32:18; K Diment 4:32:18; K Kenworth 4:32:19; D Clack 4:32:19; R Pinkney 4:32:20; P Gross 4:32:20; A Mackinnon 4:32:21; L Humphris 4:32:23; F Keith 4:32:24; D Needham 4:32:25; T Girvan 4:32:25; S Hibberd 4:32:26; R Burne 4:32:26; D Edwards 4:32:26; S Dickson 4:32:27; S Ruppel 4:32:27; C McComb 4:32:27; P Blotiere 4:32:27; R Khan 4:32:28; S Saunders 4:32:28; L Kelly 4:32:28; P Scott 4:32:28; J Darley 4:32:28; M Skilton 4:32:29; G Rogers 4:32:29; D Bass 4:32:30; B Wilderoder 4:32:30; E Armstrong 4:32:30; J Cockburn 4:32:30; M Loxton 4:32:30; J Roberts 4:32:31; P Tomlin 4:32:31; C Craven-Bartle 4:32:31; C Simpson 4:32:31; J Mackinnon 4:32:31; R Allison 4:32:31; T Shore 4:32:31; S Timmermans 4:32:31; S Stafford 4:32:32; G Scrafton 4:32:32; P Carter 4:32:32; N Barnes 4:32:32; D Bould 4:32:32; R Washer 4:32:32; R Benest 4:32:33; M Tranter 4:32:33; C Gillibrand 4:32:34; M Roessler 4:32:34; P Fulton 4:32:34; D Isbill 4:32:34; M Chinasamy 4:32:34; T Coombes 4:32:35; R Tinnyunt 4:32:35; T Cottis 4:32:35; P Ferris 4:32:36; A Jeffery 4:32:36; R Hardy 4:32:36; R Fulford 4:32:36; F Michon 4:32:37; B Zilber 4:32:37; D Borley 4:32:37; R Taylor 4:32:37; L Harris 4:32:37; A Gautier-Smith 4:32:37; J Pettitt 4:32:38; T Payne 4:32:38; L Stevens 4:32:38; J Rouse 4:32:39; K Brown 4:32:39; S Hawtin 4:32:39; F Keyte 4:32:40; A Fenoull 4:32:40; T Duck 4:32:41; S Holland 4:32:41; M Bate 4:32:41; G Laws 4:32:42; H Howard 4:32:43; J Williams 4:32:43; I Lathlu 4:32:43; R Williams 4:32:43; P Jeffrey 4:32:44; A Sparks 4:32:44.

15,501 J Wheeler 4:32:44; E Lombroso 4:32:44; S Oldham 4:32:44; D Sell 4:32:46; R Brason 4:32:46; C Read 4:32:46; M Kennedy 4:32:47; D Athels 4:32:47; M Waring 4:32:48; S Harmer 4:32:48; F Delugin 4:32:48; M Patterson 4:32:48; R Gosling 4:32:49; J Palneau 4:32:50; R Rivers 4:32:50; G Heineman 4:32:50; S Dent 4:32:51; M Lindsay 4:32:51; S Lloyd 4:32:51; P Hewitt 4:32:51; D Walker 4:32:52; A Sykes 4:32:52; A Leversidge 4:32:52; S Martin 4:32:53; O Howlett 4:32:53; S Brownlow 4:32:54; B Skinner 4:32:54; M Williams 4:32:55; B Hercock 4:32:55; C Campbell 4:32:55; K Godfrey 4:32:56; P Segui 4:32:56; S James 4:32:56; R Shaw 4:32:56; N Burdell 4:32:57; J Shaw 4:32:57; P Quealey 4:32:57; A Rees 4:32:58; G Houghton 4:32:58; N Sheehan 4:32:58; P Lazenby 4:32:58; S Harper 4:32:58; D Hibbitt 4:32:59; J Poidevin 4:32:59; D Rush 4:32:59; W Van Der Werf 4:32:59; P Holpin 4:32:59; C O'Neill 4:32:59; K Gordon 4:32:59; P Airey 4:32:59; M Duckworth 4:32:59; R Cooper 4:32:59; J Down 4:32:59; S Doyle 4:33:00; R Becker 4:33:00; R Bacon 4:33:00; A Lamont 4:33:00; R Geddes 4:33:00; B Pidgeon 4:33:00; E Mathisen 4:33:01; M Thompson 4:33:01; E Jamieson 4:33:01; A Shopland 4:33:01; K Eccleston 4:33:01; P Waters 4:33:01; C Eccleston 4:33:02; D Dobb 4:33:02; N Sperry 4:33:02; C Compton 4:33:02; M Roberts 4:33:02; S Parker 4:33:02; C Mitchell 4:33:02; G Blyth 4:33:02; K Short 4:33:02; S Stelling 4:33:02; N Canner 4:33:03; A Tweddell 4:33:03; C Brennan 4:33:03; R Macinnes 4:33:03; H Kharboth 4:33:03; D Lee 4:33:03; W Pearson 4:33:03; S Hope 4:33:03; R Letscher 4:33:03; R Spencer 4:33:03; R Elkington 4:33:03; S Monti 4:33:03; G Hutson 4:33:05; A Ford 4:33:05; R Faehnrich 4:33:06; A Delbe 4:33:06; H Pech 4:33:06; M Stefanovic 4:33:07; J Deal 4:33:07; C Ross 4:33:07; T Dearnley 4:33:08; R Brown 4:33:08; I Lloyd 4:33:09; A Brown 4:33:09; T Harvey 4:33:09.

15,601 A Scott 4:33.11; B Dede 4:33:13; C Darrington 4:33.13; N Braggins 4:33:14; S Hill 4:33:15; T Konig 4:33:16; K Freeman 4:33:18; S Aves 4:33:18; M England 4:33:19; G Gallen 4:33:19; D Wood 4:33:19; C Slegg 4:33:20; P Lowrie 4:33:20; S Pietikainen 4:33:20; D Powell 4:33:21; A Ryynanen 4:33:21; J Day 4:33:21; G Watkins 4:33:21; P Kemp 4:33:22; P Crosby 4:33:22; K Goddard 4:33:23; K Hughes 4:33:23; A Ryan 4:33:23; G Anderson 4:33:24; M Goodwin 4:33:24; S Manning 4:33:24; B Wright 4:33:24; M Lang 4:33:24; M Beynon 4:33:24; S Takano 4:33:24; M Holland 4:33:24; R Drew 4:33:24; D Natusch 4:33:24; M Forrest 4:33:24; A Sayer 4:33:24; P Legg 4:33:24; G Daniels 4:33:24; K Lennard 4:33:25; P Sayer 4:33:25; A Ward-Thomas 4:33:25; P Trouche 4:33:25; S Abernathy 4:33:25; B Frampton 4:33:25; D Martin 4:33:25; B Mohamed 4:33:26; B Eke 4:33:26; A Migliore 4:33:27; K Valasjarvi 4:33:27; N Davidson 4:33:27; I Collingwood 4:33:27; I Teplelow 4:33:27; J Roberts 4:33:28; M Duffaut 4:33:28; S Lea 4:33:28; E Wilson 4:33:28; L Bowker 4:33:29; A Goldie 4:33:29; L Monaghan 4:33:29; S Mansbridge 4:33:29; J Heseltine 4:33:29; D Williams 4:33:30; B Crozier 4:33:30; P Burton 4:33:30; A Barrick 4:33:30; A Jarrold 4:33:30; J Preston-Jones 4:33:30; D Taylor 4:33:31; D Gill 4:33:31; A Williams 4:33:32; S Barthel 4:33:32; L Goldbourne 4:33:32; T Grass 4:33:33; M Skelton 4:33:33; P Beland 4:33:33; J Van Gammeren 4:33:34; K Martin 4:33:34; J Llewelyn 4:33:34; G Street 4:33:34; O Pearson 4:33:34; G Petzoldt 4:33:35; A Milne 4:33:35; R Dowling 4:33:35; P Williams 4:33:35; B Hubbard 4:33:36; K Rowe 4:33:36; T Poole 4:33:36; G Pettigrew 4:33:36; S Evans 4:33:36; R Smith 4:33:37; D Jackson 4:33:37; T Stocks 4:33:37; M Maisey 4:33:37; J Breen 4:33:37; M Maddrell 4:33:38; K Parrott 4:33:39; M Spray 4:33:39; Y Le Bouedec 4:33:41; M Jackson 4:33:41; S Cobb 4:33:42; J Spalter 4:33:42.

CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC GAMES
Atlanta 1996
swatch
OFFICIAL TIMEKEEPER
AND PARTNER OF THE
1996 OLYMPIC GAMES

15,701 B Holdsworth 4:33:42; D Holtby 4:33:42; P Pepes 4:33:42; J Raftery 4:33:43; M McGrath 4:33:43; E Parry 4:33:43; D Hodgkins 4:33:45; S Jolly 4:33:45; M Williams 4:33:45; P Dolan 4:33:45; S Roberts 4:33:45; D Olivier 4:33:46; N Hooke 4:33:47; P Cogdale 4:33:48; G Harbord 4:33:48; B Nash 4:33:49; A Sugarmaw 4:33:49; H McMillan 4:33:52; D Baker 4:33:52; D Spinner 4:33:52; J Bottier 4:33:52; D Gristock 4:33:52; A Brook 4:33:53; J Goodridge 4:33:53; J Daly 4:33:53; S Upton 4:33:53; J Brown 4:33:53; A Greenizan 4:33:54; D Bowler 4:33:55; R Bull 4:33:55; B Harding 4:33:55; E Chmara 4:33:55; K McMorrow 4:33:56; R Clements 4:33:56; R Moran 4:33:56; B Jaudeau 4:33:56; S Richards 4:33:57; H Bartlett 4:33:58; J Shepherd 4:33:58; G Pearson 4:33:58; H Fisher 4:33:58; J Dowley 4:33:59; D Thomas 4:33:59; I Parr 4:33:59; J Vaneldik 4:33:59; F Macleod 4:33:59; R Reader 4:33:59; R Morley 4:33:59; C Jackson 4:33:59; M Davey 4:33:59; G Petts 4:33:59; C Measures 4:33:59; L Sun 4:34:00; D Gautier Juif 4:34:00; J Crehers 4:34:01; T Constant 4:34:01; C Baker 4:34:02; F Robertson 4:34:02; A Bent 4:34:03; R Chapman 4:34:03; H Vickers 4:34:03; A Richards 4:34:03; M Smithson 4:34:03; K Coleman 4:34:03; R Knight 4:34:03; C Heydon 4:34:04; A Warner 4:34:04; T Hoyois 4:34:04; P Muncila 4:34:05; A Arfield 4:34:05; M Wooder 4:34:05; J Tibbs 4:34:06; F Hutchinson 4:34:06; R Williams 4:34:06; D Skinner 4:34:07; K Jenner 4:34:07; T Thomas 4:34:08; J Brooking 4:34:08; I Simpson 4:34:08; F Boardman 4:34:08; P Pitt 4:34:09; C Greffier 4:34:10; A Boswell 4:34:11; L Hochschild 4:34:11; M Waite 4:34:11; K Wilkinson 4:34:11; J Aspinall 4:34:11; D Argent 4:34:11; G Barrell 4:34:11; J Sabater 4:34:11; J Fuhlendorff 4:34:11; M Hodges 4:34:12; H Von Truembach 4:34:13; A Guy 4:34:13; L Hyland 4:34:14; R Salmang 4:34:14; J McDermott 4:34:14; C Wield 4:34:14; L Christodoulou 4:34:14; S Riddle 4:34:15.

15,801 N White 4:34:15; R Kesby 4:34:16; J McKenzie 4:34:17; S Melones 4:34:17; C Vowles 4:34:18; R Bevan 4:34:18; D Holden 4:34:18; A Stone 4:34:19; D Guilfoyle 4:34:19; A Abraham 4:34:20; N Abbott 4:34:20; G Freeman 4:34:20; O Pedersen 4:34:20; A Woolven 4:34:21; W Harrison 4:34:21; G Pownall 4:34:21; S Wright 4:34:22; S Neale 4:34:23; A Elliot 4:34:23; G Sharpe 4:34:23; M Poulter 4:34:23; M Bedford 4:34:23; T Baldry 4:34:23; D Carson 4:34:23; W Van Der Straeten 4:34:24; M Drew 4:34:25; L Eames 4:34:26; B Wilkinson 4:34:26; P Eames 4:34:26; P Schaafsma 4:34:28; D Wren 4:34:29; G Lester 4:34:30; R Ledger 4:34:31; J Halloden 4:34:31; G Gerard 4:34:31; C Nurse 4:34:31; R Heath 4:34:32; A Mahoney 4:34:33; S Iley 4:34:33; M Aitken 4:34:33; J Oatley 4:34:33; S Lowndes 4:34:33; S Budd 4:34:33; M Parrish 4:34:34; B Gillibrand 4:34:34; D Boaden 4:34:34; P Thompson 4:34:34; M Hutchings 4:34:34; P Enright 4:34:35; I Skjemstad 4:34:35; M Rousell 4:34:35; G Dahlsrud 4:34:36; D Fennessy 4:34:36; M O'Donoghue 4:34:37; A Greenhalgh 4:34:38; D Austin 4:34:38; S Drant 4:34:39; A Dye 4:34:39; A Fernandes 4:34:40; D Brennan 4:34:40; C Norvill 4:34:40; B Willcox 4:34:40; B Wright 4:34:41; P Worth 4:34:41; A Porter 4:34:41; M Welby 4:34:42; J Evans 4:34:42; W Dixon 4:34:42; K Dixon 4:34:43; T Norris 4:34:43; L Mason 4:34:43; M Meaword 4:34:43; M Hunt 4:34:44; G Ulbrich 4:34:44; P Bassett 4:34:44; W Waldron 4:34:44; P Penn 4:34:44; J Levy 4:34:44; T Harrison 4:34:44; P Kenney 4:34:44; J Splinter 4:34:44; B Splinter 4:34:44; S Marsh 4:34:44; F Cook 4:34:44; W Picot 4:34:44; B Buswell 4:34:44; R Worsley 4:34:45; A Walker 4:34:49; S Honor 4:34:49; P Kendrick 4:34:49; M Fisher 4:34:50; R Holmes 4:34:51; J Davies 4:34:51; M Johnson 4:34:51; Z Fountain 4:34:53; B Green 4:34:53; N Styles 4:34:55; R Scott 4:34:58; F Vandeputte 4:34:58; K Eva 4:34:59

15,901 S Reed 4:34:59; W Robinson 4:35:00; S Jamieson 4:35:00; S Etty 4:35:00; M Pearson 4:35:02; T Smith 4:35:03; S Hirtz 4:35:03; D Read 4:35:03; R Mountjoy 4:35:04; D Hodson 4:35:04; C Thomas 4:35:04; M Wilson 4:35:05; R Leonard 4:35:05; J Sellars 4:35:05; H Bowrey 4:35:05; T Sutherill 4:35:06; J Newman 4:35:06; C Hughes 4:35:08; D Major 4:35:08; C Gentry 4:35:08; J Smith 4:35:08; P Bennett 4:35:08; A Vaughan 4:35:11; A Blair 4:35:11; K Klein 4:35:11; M Hedberg 4:35:11; B Gillett 4:35:11; A Creg 4:35:12; U Harrogate 4:35:12; K Dearner 4:35:12; P Abbott 4:35:12; J Emery 4:35:12; S Pallett 4:35:14; D Porter 4:35:15; P Le Guen 4:35:15; R James 4:35:16; J Spalding 4:35:16; M Gill 4:35:17; C Dixon 4:35:17; M Rich 4:35:17; C Peacock 4:35:17; D Williamson 4:35:17; M Smitheman 4:35:17; K Rotherforth 4:35:17; C Jewitt 4:35:17; K Hunter 4:35:17; R Andrews 4:35:17; S Quinn 4:35:17; H Jorgensen 4:35:19; R Reynolds 4:35:19; S Holt 4:35:19; H Johnson 4:35:19; C Gregson 4:35:19; D Moles 4:35:19; L King 4:35:19; J Chong 4:35:19; B Cheetham 4:35:19; A Nash 4:35:19; L Heap 4:35:19; A Bates 4:35:19; R Devine 4:35:19; A Thompson 4:35:19; R Nickalls 4:35:19; C Scott 4:35:19; O Von Truembach 4:35:20; B Thomas 4:35:20; B Debono 4:35:21; S Clements 4:35:21; K Hallam 4:35:21; B Payne 4:35:22; J Westmoreland 4:35:23; N Peach 4:35:23; M Friedman 4:35:24; S Threadwell 4:35:24; R Oosterwaal 4:35:24; M Lynch 4:35:25; S Thomas 4:35:25; G Heeler 4:35:25; P Sears 4:35:25; C Maneksha 4:35:25; D Reynolds 4:35:25; N Carey 4:35:25; L Coudeyre 4:35:25; G Walker 4:35:25; W Oakes 4:35:26; M Gunther 4:35:26; F Burke 4:35:27; G Rankin 4:35:28; H Jones 4:35:29; I McEleny 4:35:30; N Cooper 4:35:30; M Wood 4:35:31; L Hird 4:35:31; J Higham 4:35:32; R Lloyd 4:35:32; P McKiernan 4:35:32; R Bray 4:35:33; J Matchett 4:35:33; S Fensom 4:35:33; S Reid 4:35:34.

16,001 M Clemmet 4:35:35; R Shimmen 4:35:35; J Govveia 4:35:36; V Rodriguez 4:35:36; S Fearn 4:35:36; D Woodward 4:35:37; T Hines 4:35:37; E Gerald 4:35:37; T Jones 4:35:37; R Miller 4:35:38; P Williams 4:35:38; B Low 4:35:39; C Burford 4:35:39; G Chapman 4:35:39; J McInally 4:35:40; M Stephenson 4:35:40; A Cope 4:35:41; P Higgins 4:35:42; D Tate 4:35:43; P Butler 4:35:43; E Goodridge 4:35:44; R Dye 4:35:44; M Clarke 4:35:44; J Stott 4:35:45; P Wallace 4:35:45; A Casey 4:35:45; G Mitton 4:35:45; W Goreham 4:35:45; C Laing 4:35:46; J Hockley 4:35:46; V Guerin 4:35:47; S Hockley 4:35:47; W McDonald 4:35:47; A Hope 4:35:48; P Reeve 4:35:48; S Kadri 4:35:48; G McIntosh 4:35:49; J Davidson 4:35:49; C Dubois 4:35:50; M Allen 4:35:51; R Mellor 4:35:52; P Watts 4:35:52; R Katz 4:35:53; D Kent 4:35:53; T Halleron 4:35:53; S Rogers 4:35:53; N Dimbleby 4:35:53; B Elliott 4:35:54; A Niepel 4:35:54; A Barnes 4:35:54; D Thornton 4:35:54; R Stephens 4:35:55; S Gray 4:35:55; E Wilson 4:35:55; G Smith 4:35:56; T Maclaine 4:35:56; A Harkness 4:35:56; H Hughes 4:35:56; K Butcher 4:35:56; P O'Hare 4:35:56; M Dutton 4:35:57; J Sullivan 4:35:58; J Hall 4:35:58; M Iwasaki 4:35:58; M Pitt 4:35:59; P Ellice 4:36:00; J Hutchings 4:36:01; C Cara 4:36:01; S Williams 4:36:01; C Moncrieff 4:36:01; I Emuss 4:36:02; M Long 4:36:03; B Pilkin 4:36:03; N Newman 4:36:04; A Schroder 4:36:05; J Hopkins 4:36:05; G Bolleboom 4:36:05; T Gould 4:36:05; K Hemming 4:36:06; S Chadwick 4:36:06; D Lapsley 4:36:06; S Boyd 4:36:06; G Whatmough 4:36:06; A Vallor 4:36:06; P Newby 4:36:06; A Hunt 4:36:06; H Nupponen 4:36:07; C Lishman 4:36:07; N Bickerstaff 4:36:07; W Butcher 4:36:08; P Beard 4:36:08; P Coakes 4:36:08; R Repton 4:36:08; V Calatayud-Orcels 4:36:08; M Sanchis-Gamez 4:36:08; R Hartley 4:36:08; S Brady 4:36:08; S Caveney 4:36:08; M Connolly 4:36:08; D Tosoni 4:36:08.

16,101 S Rigby 4:36:09; E Ionttion 4:36:09; M Pinkney 4:36:09; D Clayton 4:36:09; P Thompson 4:36:09; J Pearce 4:36:10; A Curtis 4:36:10; O Villeneuve 4:36:11; P Halls 4:36:11; G Lewis 4:36:13; G Anderson 4:36:13; B Maguire 4:36:13; A Sweeney 4:36:13; N Macey 4:36:13; G Dixon 4:36:14; A Spriggs 4:36:14; B Staines 4:36:14; S Dudgeon 4:36:14; B Mustafa 4:36:17; D Porter 4:36:17; R Ronvel 4:36:17; N White 4:36:18; J Murray 4:36:18; S Wilson 4:36:19; M Lavercombe 4:36:19; N Bird 4:36:19; C Legg 4:36:19; D Smyth 4:36:19; G Bernardeau 4:36:19; G Kilsby 4:36:19; G Dalton 4:36:20; K Foster 4:36:21; B Wallen 4:36:21; J Cahill 4:36:21; M Edwards 4:36:21; B Jones 4:36:23; G Maguire 4:36:23; N Courtney 4:36:24; G Peddie 4:36:24; I Pyke 4:36:24; T Somerville 4:36:25; V Crane 4:36:25; M Humphries 4:36:25; R Bouman 4:36:26; A Hill 4:36:26; M Howe 4:36:26; E Reynolds 4:36:26; S Atkin 4:36:27; N Webber 4:36:27; P Wyatt 4:36:27; S Wyatt 4:36:27; P Monkhouse 4:36:27; M Luff 4:36:28; P Clifford 4:36:28; S Wiswell 4:36:29; R Bell 4:36:30; S Hawkes 4:36:30; G Wright 4:36:30; B Gregor 4:36:30; D Harmston 4:36:30; R Fellowes 4:36:30; P Maund 4:36:31; M Wilkinson 4:36:31; G Butler 4:36:32; A Lundemose 4:36:32; D George 4:36:32; J Stokes 4:36:32; K Carter 4:36:32; J Camsey 4:36:32; M Pickering 4:36:33; B Williams 4:36:33; S Begg 4:36:34; J Walsh 4:36:34; B Comber 4:36:34; J Harper 4:36:35; A Harper 4:36:35; J Garthwaite 4:36:36; J Das Neves 4:36:36; J Ross 4:36:36; R Hardy 4:36:36; D Paris 4:36:37; J Tucker 4:36:37; R Hamilton 4:36:38; D Buckingham 4:36:38; M Maginn 4:36:38; B Le-Lay 4:36:38; A Button 4:36:38; R Dorney 4:36:39; P O'Donoghue 4:36:39; E Mehmed 4:36:39; G Worthington 4:36:40; G Sinnott 4:36:41; B Simpson 4:36:43; D Angus 4:36:43; M Lilley 4:36:43; P Howes 4:36:43; S Bright 4:36:45; J Giacomazzi 4:36:45; S Binians Zinon 4:36:45; G Wells 4:36:45.

16,201 E Olivier 4:36:45; M Birchley 4:36:45; C De Ste Croix 4:36:45; S Baggaley 4:36:45; M Jones 4:36:45; B Holben 4:36:45; D Parker 4:36:45; C Slatter 4:36:45; G Norris 4:36:45; S Dibble 4:36:45; R Freeman 4:36:45; A Claydon 4:36:45; G Cooper 4:36:45; J Dawson 4:36:46; M Allen 4:36:46; M Gatto 4:36:46; C Cross 4:36:46; A Mitchell 4:36:46; M Joyce 4:36:47; S Arch 4:36:47; D Ganeshan 4:36:47; D Picton 4:36:48; S Tyler 4:36:48; R Parrish 4:36:48; K Swan 4:36:49; J Proffitt 4:36:51; M Mellors 4:36:52; I Preston 4:36:53; H Dobson 4:36:54; A Gee 4:36:54; D Chandler 4:36:54; T Robinson 4:36:54; A Sleep 4:36:54; P Torre 4:36:54; G Williams 4:36:54; A Murtagh 4:36:54; S Brooks 4:36:54; J Queen 4:36:55; A Migliorini 4:36:55; P Radstock 4:36:55; M Fagan 4:36:55; C Fulford-Brown 4:36:55; D Bedwell 4:36:55; J Beresford 4:36:55; C Watson 4:36:56; C Meek 4:36:56; T Burton 4:36:56; S Poynter 4:36:56; A French 4:36:57; W Taylor 4:36:57; C Pasetti 4:36:57; D Quinn 4:36:57; N Browne 4:36:58; P Thompson 4:36:59; S Walker 4:36:59; L Kyd 4:36:59; K Ruston 4:37:00; D Jones 4:37:00; K De Carlo 4:37:00; C Lloyd 4:37:00; C Skerratt 4:37:00; W Goodall 4:37:01; A Ross 4:37:01; D Kitching 4:37:02; J Bowdler 4:37:02; S Bondler 4:37:02; A Webb 4:37:02; D Durband 4:37:03; J Carter 4:37:03; M Claes 4:37:03; F Massoulie 4:37:03; N Laing 4:37:04; V Lacovics 4:37:04; P Southwell 4:37:04; C Hutton 4:37:04; T Norris 4:37:05; R Higham 4:37:06; S Elford 4:37:07; I Carlse 4:37:07; T Apps 4:37:08; I Walter 4:37:08; J Downs 4:37:09; S Hansen 4:37:09; A Jones 4:37:10; D Nichols 4:37:11; K Thomas 4:37:11; W Luscombe 4:37:11; I Mason 4:37:11; C McBeth 4:37:11; F Hazlitt 4:37:11; D Preston 4:37:11; H Zimmermann 4:37:12; W Morgan 4:37:12; E Hughes 4:37:13; C Wilgoss 4:37:13; W Soler 4:37:13; D James 4:37:13; D Waller 4:37:14; M Brooks 4:37:14; J Manning 4:37:15.

16,301 K Shireby 4:37:15; G Vaughan 4:37:15; F Cattell 4:37:16; D Meikle 4:37:16; N Aloush 4:37:17; S Keenan 4:37:17; N Thomson 4:37:17; N Bonner 4:37:19; L Isaacs 4:37:19; M Moraghan 4:37:20; S Wilkinson 4:37:21; P Wilkinson 4:37:22; V Bridger 4:37:22; A Whiteley 4:37:24; C Carlin 4:37:24; P Rees 4:37:25; T Monks 4:37:25; E Cresswell 4:37:25; K Munro 4:37:26; G Beveridge 4:37:26; J Kitchen 4:37:26; M Wood 4:37:26; H Brain 4:37:26; P Moller Jensen 4:37:26; J Hogan 4:37:26; P Rawlins 4:37:26; K Crane 4:37:26; R Sawyer 4:37:26; A Broderick 4:37:26; H Schmidt 4:37:26; A Waterhouse 4:37:26; T Trofimczuk 4:37:26; D Rimmer 4:37:26; C Kummerer 4:37:26; V Green 4:37:26; L Innes 4:37:26; J Learmont 4:37:26; S Klepzig 4:37:26; J Hall 4:37:27; D Glethlen 4:37:27; T Brown 4:37:28; A Radley 4:37:28; D Lewis 4:37:29; E Collins 4:37:29; A Simmons 4:37:29; S Mallia 4:37:30; H Thain 4:37:30; S Fitton 4:37:30; V Thomas 4:37:30; C Jean-Claude 4:37:31; P Hayward 4:37:31; T Crane 4:37:32; N Adams 4:37:32; P Adams 4:37:33; M Pearson 4:37:33; C Goodall 4:37:33; A Buckley 4:37:33; L Hayes 4:37:33; R Chart 4:37:34; J McDade 4:37:35; D Kaufman 4:37:35; R Tufton 4:37:35; M Belton 4:37:35; B Adams 4:37:35; M Fielder 4:37:35; K Marshallsay 4:37:35; P Bishop 4:37:36; A Burnett 4:37:36; B Watson 4:37:37; A Lewis 4:37:37; S Kelly 4:37:36; C Davies 4:37:38; B Rowell 4:37:38; M Hinchliff 4:37:38; C Parsons 4:37:38; S Zwoch 4:37:38; J Kennedy 4:37:39; M Johnson 4:37:39; C Twentyman 4:37:39; R McCallum 4:37:40; D Culling 4:37:42; S Fincham 4:37:42; J Hoy 4:37:42; D McQuiggan 4:37:43; G Goodall 4:37:43; K Jackson 4:37:43; C Duckham 4:37:43; J Kennedy 4:37:43; D Jones 4:37:43; J Walsh 4:37:43; M Connelly 4:37:43; D Robinson 4:37:43; A Tibberson 4:37:44; I Westphal 4:37:44; P Clark 4:37:45; J Vermeiren 4:37:45; K Bulteel 4:37:45; J Dooner 4:37:46; A Schepers 4:37:46; A Kidson 4:37:46.

16,401 J Cannon 4:37:47; K Weber 4:37:47; D Finn 4:37:48; A Scarratt 4:37:50; J Young 4:37:50; A Bomke 4:37:51; P Toy 4:37:51; A Allerton 4:37:51; A Freeman 4:37:52; E Moses 4:37:52; K Trabal 4:37:52; L Mansfield 4:37:52; M Kuehnappel 4:37:52; G Bevan 4:37:52; I Kornecka 4:37:52; K Bhagesh 4:37:53; M Pike 4:37:53; J Bienek 4:37:54; T Abbott 4:37:54; J Dixon 4:37:54; J Dixon 4:37:54; T Watkins 4:37:55; I Wade 4:37:55; A Kirk 4:37:55; J Hartley 4:37:55; A Glazer 4:37:56; P Lay 4:37:56; R Gallier 4:37:56; L Cooper 4:37:56; D Pearce 4:37:56; K Tayler 4:37:56; R Fulford 4:37:56; J Brooksbank 4:37:59; R Pomfret 4:38:00; V Cancellieri 4:38:00; S Harle 4:38:01; R May 4:38:01; H Looney 4:38:01; K Paul 4:38:02; P Sherrell 4:38:02; B Dupee 4:38:03; A Lowery 4:38:03; B Cleaver 4:38:03; B Wetherington 4:38:03; D Cross 4:38:04; C Spencer 4:38:04; C Wayne 4:38:04; J Mustard 4:38:04; S Rovde 4:38:04; V Beitinelli 4:38:05; N Park 4:38:05; C Didou 4:38:05; B Nash 4:38:06; W Steenblock 4:38:07; J Morgan 4:38:08; M Benning 4:38:09; J Warnaar 4:38:09; J Kaestner 4:38:09; T Coles 4:38:09; R Duncombe 4:38:09; I Arnold 4:38:10; J Phelps 4:38:10; J Deans 4:38:10; C Turner 4:38:10; M Barley 4:38:10; A Leigh 4:38:10; A Lake 4:38:10; E Wills 4:38:10; R Shepherd 4:38:10; P Lilley 4:38:11; M Cadiou 4:38:12; B Carhantec 4:38:12; J Clarke 4:38:12; G Moore 4:38:13; H Ovale 4:38:13; B McDonnell 4:38:14; S Holden 4:38:14; M Cowen 4:38:14; R Miles 4:38:14; M Creagh 4:38:15; C Thwaites 4:38:15; J Catling 4:38:15; H Gould 4:38:16; R Cambell 4:38:16; B Armstrong 4:38:16; A Fox 4:38:16; T Wright 4:38:17; R Mundy 4:38:17; S Musikanth 4:38:18; D Tooth 4:38:19; P Bienz 4:38:19; J Woodley 4:38:20; C Toy 4:38:20; P McIlroy 4:38:20; W Gundeck 4:38:20; C Smith 4:38:20; K Outcalt 4:38:21; M Garner 4:38:21; G Alexander 4:38:21; D McCaffrey 4:38:21.

16,501 J Gaze 4:38:21; D Hamill 4:38:21; K McNee 4:38:21; G Bake 4:38:21; G Forrest 4:38:21; A Myers 4:38:21; D Miller 4:38:22; J Salmon 4:38:22; D Brassington 4:38:22; D York 4:38:23; B Bathgate 4:38:23; S Leggett 4:38:23; D Cole 4:38:23; N Olsson 4:38:24; S Rea 4:38:24; M Li 4:38:24; M Fawdon 4:38:24; K Tylee 4:38:24; C Lord 4:38:24; E Rayment 4:38:24; D Watts 4:38:25; M Sapwell 4:38:25; P Rudd 4:38:26; J Edmundson 4:38:26; K Biggin 4:38:27; J Cunningham 4:38:27; J Burleigh 4:38:27; D Georges 4:38:27; D Baillie 4:38:27; S Hand 4:38:27; M Smith 4:38:28; E Spratley 4:38:28; I Ross 4:38:29; N Mann 4:38:29; G Gibbons 4:38:29; A Siao 4:38:29; H Allen 4:38:29; P Mulhearn 4:38:30; D Margolis 4:38:30; P Shersby 4:38:30; C Hogger 4:38:30; S Dawson 4:38:30; M Hill 4:38:30; M Morse 4:38:31; I Geering 4:38:31; T McDonald 4:38:31; P Prince 4:38:32; G Ralph 4:38:32; G Scarff 4:38:32; A Lovett 4:38:32; S Bland 4:38:33; N Vanos 4:38:33; R Tranter 4:38:33; P Diet 4:38:33; G Dundee 4:38:33; P Tchaikovsky 4:38:33; D Hazell 4:38:33; A Bridges 4:38:33; T Vanner 4:38:34; K Bee 4:38:36; S Kettle 4:38:37; D Russell 4:38:37; C Hurran 4:38:38; T Lyons 4:38:38; A Newell 4:38:38; L Gilbride 4:38:38; P Bradley 4:38:39; W Wellwood 4:38:39; P Shafe 4:38:39; G Prior 4:38:39; G Conroy 4:38:39; P Hannam 4:38:40; E Gallagher 4:38:40; D Pinnock 4:38:40; S Oakley 4:38:40; H Milligan 4:38:41; J Bailes 4:38:41; J Brown 4:38:41; K Smart 4:38:41; R Ford 4:38:42; D Howes 4:38:42; I Harrison 4:38:42; A Philp 4:38:42; A Foster 4:38:42; S Pullinger 4:38:43; M Redgrave 4:38:43; L Nielson 4:38:43; J Simpson 4:38:43; J Leith 4:38:44; T Cheetham 4:38:44; C Parkinson 4:38:44; D Course 4:38:44; B Boissiere 4:38:44; S Sheppard 4:38:44; A Jack 4:38:45; B Croft 4:38:45; J Cooper 4:38:46; C Tosh 4:38:46; K Hendry 4:38:48; N Westrope 4:38:49.

16,601 W Rach 4:38:49; G Page 4:38:49; C Why 4:38:50; J Palmer 4:38:50; C Gillingham 4:38:51; K Spratley 4:38:51; P Keen 4:38:51; D Washington 4:38:51; P Robinson 4:38:52; S Ledward 4:38:52; A Dunn 4:38:52; M Keefe 4:38:52; R Figg 4:38:52; S Ecclesdon 4:38:53; N Rapley 4:38:53; P Symonds 4:38:53; R Barbieri 4:38:53; A Watson 4:38:54; R Shearman 4:38:54; J Sargant 4:38:55; L Connor 4:38:55; A Palmer 4:38:55; D Miller 4:38:55; J Candler 4:38:55; M O'Hare 4:38:56; E Snow 4:38:56; E Cocozza 4:38:56; M Woof 4:38:56; R Colbeck 4:38:56; M Mace 4:38:57; G Sale 4:38:57; P Lockyer 4:38:57; M Whybrow 4:38:57; A Case 4:38:57; L Sneary 4:38:59; S Sutton 4:38:59; P Carter 4:39:00; M Peterson 4:39:00; M Jessop 4:39:00; G Wilmer 4:39:00; R Barrett 4:39:02; C Jenkins 4:39:02; P Cook 4:39:03; D Gatfield 4:39:03; C Pates 4:39:04; R Baker 4:39:04; T Gilbey 4:39:05; T White 4:39:06; N McCann 4:39:07; P Trotman 4:39:07; D Foster 4:39:07; K Tinsley 4:39:11; C Wood 4:39:11; S Dickson 4:39:12; C Turner 4:39:12; S Reason 4:39:12; B Malone 4:39:14; A Jones 4:39:14; M Fenney 4:39:14; I Parnell 4:39:14; M Hutton 4:39:14; M Hutton 4:39:14; R Marquis 4:39:14; H Crease 4:39:14; E Coll 4:39:14; A Brantom 4:39:14; F Ottesen 4:39:15; I Sciers Almada 4:39:15; M Edwards 4:39:15; R Wilson 4:39:15; D Wenman 4:39:16; J Bunyan 4:39:17; M Joy 4:39:17; D Blair 4:39:17; K Potts 4:39:17; S Hill 4:39:18; H Carlin 4:39:18; N Shoreman 4:39:19; M Thomson 4:39:20; L Rolf 4:39:20; R Butler 4:39:21; T McBride 4:39:21; T Lederle 4:39:21; A Bartlett 4:39:21; R Watkins 4:39:22; M Hoolahan 4:39:23; D Clark 4:39:23; S Hall 4:39:23; P Patrick 4:39:23; A Cooper 4:39:23; J Culver 4:39:24; J Hines 4:39:24; D Teasdale 4:39:24; P Robertson 4:39:25; J Stratford 4:39:25; A Henning 4:39:25; D Humphries 4:39:26; M Clarke 4:39:27; A Knightall 4:39:27; C Lodge 4:39:27.

16,701 S Fenner 4:39:28; J Cooper 4:39:28; V Evans 4:39:30; G Williams 4:39:30; T Newton 4:39:31; R Bayliss 4:39:31; P Tonks 4:39:32; J Needs 4:39:32; T Boarder 4:39:32; M Frew 4:39:33; M Sheppard 4:39:33; P Zavoli 4:39:33; A McCrone 4:39:34; R Pankhurst 4:39:34; J Brown 4:39:35; D Walsh 4:39:35; S Clark 4:39:35; L Miller 4:39:35; V McWha 4:39:35; A Alford 4:39:36; F Walling 4:39:36; M Brennan 4:39:37; A Morris 4:39:37; K Jones 4:39:37; J Ward 4:39:37; C Read 4:39:37; J Cox 4:39:37; S Beaumont 4:39:37; R Devlin 4:39:37; D Wohlfahrt 4:39:37; E Berg 4:39:38; J Witherington 4:39:39; S Whitmarsh-Knight 4:39:39; C McDonagh 4:39:40; K Nord Varhaug 4:39:40; K Barr Pfeiffer 4:39:40; A Gomm 4:39:41; N Katris 4:39:41; W Loeffler 4:39:41; G Pycock 4:39:41; S Wooster 4:39:42; A Stammers 4:39:42; M Higley 4:39:43; I Harrison 4:39:43; S Lacey 4:39:43; J Wilkinson 4:39:43; T Pennell 4:39:43; S Bradley 4:39:44; B Dale 4:39:44; F Rose 4:39:44; I Cragg 4:39:44; P Welfare 4:39:45; S Boulter 4:39:45; I Letham 4:39:46; M Willoughby 4:39:46; J Kellett 4:39:47; N Sanderson 4:39:47; J Tuck 4:39:48; K Taylor 4:39:48; A Dellow 4:39:48; K Hansen 4:39:49; G Logan 4:39:49; P Lemaguet 4:39:49; J Grimwood 4:39:49; N Sewell 4:39:50; N Knapp 4:39:50; G Boyle 4:39:50; I Hamer 4:39:50; M McIlvenny 4:39:51; D Burford 4:39:51; R Kelly 4:39:51; J Carley 4:39:51; G Pearce 4:39:51; A Bevan 4:39:51; D Crowe 4:39:51; T Prodger 4:39:52; P Springfield 4:39:52; F O'Connor 4:39:52; G Peters 4:39:52; A Macartney 4:39:52; J Cola 4:39:52; C Redfern 4:39:52; L Walker 4:39:52; J Smith 4:39:52; S Routhley 4:39:52; S Willmott 4:39:52; D Joyce 4:39:53; N Barnes 4:39:53; W Gillett 4:39:53; H Voegeli 4:39:53; J Holmes 4:39:53; M Tada 4:39:53; P Adderson 4:39:53; M Greene 4:39:54; P Shaw 4:39:54; R Horton 4:39:55; J Peusens 4:39:55; P Brewer 4:39:55; D Cooper 4:39:55; G Hyde 4:39:56.

16,801 M Andrew 4:39:57; M Bromley 4:39:57; G Woodward 4:39:57; M Fitzhenry 4:39:57; M Newman 4:39:57; R Richards 4:39:57; D Muir 4:39:57; R Davies 4:39:58; R Williams 4:39:58; D Crawford 4:39:58; E Bushby 4:39:59; T Darcy 4:39:59; C Saintvanne 4:39:59; J Brindley 4:39:59; B Harris 4:40:00; B McCormick 4:40:00; G Wisken 4:40:00; J Freriks 4:40:01; D Middler 4:40:01; X Dormandy 4:40:02; L Oliver 4:40:02; D Warker 4:40:02; A Howard 4:40:02; D Brown 4:40:02; J Shepheard-Walwyn 4:40:02; N Nanton 4:40:03; J Hale 4:40:03; M Green 4:40:04; W Robinson 4:40:04; M Seidel 4:40:04; B Wilcock 4:40:04; S Brett 4:40:04; A Appleton 4:40:04; P Warren 4:40:05; R Shoebridge 4:40:05; P Thomas 4:40:05; B Astbury 4:40:05; J Singer 4:40:06; M Coleman 4:40:06; J Schneider 4:40:06; G Pugh 4:40:06; D Paterson 4:40:07; D Davies 4:40:07; J Ballin 4:40:07; S Fuchs 4:40:07; C Smith 4:40:08; S Black 4:40:08; S Fletcher 4:40:08; S Vinsun 4:40:09; S Skeggs 4:40:09; R Frazer 4:40:09; M Burbank 4:40:09; D Brunton 4:40:09; I Miller 4:40:10; R Gould 4:40:10; B Kenny 4:40:10; K Pioli 4:40:10; D Abbott 4:40:11; N O'Connor 4:40:12; G Horton 4:40:12; B Robins 4:40:13; S Linwood 4:40:14; R Bowen 4:40:16; A Wallace 4:40:16; A Lawson 4:40:16; W Mountford 4:40:16; R Frampton 4:40:16; A Cox 4:40:16; L Baker 4:40:17; S Baker 4:40:17; B Cramp 4:40:18; V Kumar 4:40:18; A Izzard 4:40:18; C Elliott 4:40:18; N Meyer 4:40:19; V Goddard 4:40:19; S Billington 4:40:19; C Miller 4:40:19; R Hanna 4:40:19; I Scoble 4:40:19; T Malcolm 4:40:19; C Moyle 4:40:19; C Vesty 4:40:19; C Bushell 4:40:19; F Neafcey 4:40:19; A Butcher 4:40:20; M Obrien 4:40:20; J Baker 4:40:20; J Wren 4:40:21; R Har-Ewen 4:40:21; B Matthews 4:40:21; A Pacheco 4:40:21; S Hanson 4:40:21; R Howard 4:40:21; A Childs 4:40:21; R Devey 4:40:21; M Boaler 4:40:22; K Bateson 4:40:22; D Willis 4:40:22; B Pilcher 4:40:23.

16,901 I Lee 4:40:23; M Fonseca Santos 4:40:23; C Thomas 4:40:23; A Patchett 4:40:24; J Evans 4:40:24; H Albrecht 4:40:25; B Ruggi 4:40:26; G Hearty 4:40:26; N Borkett 4:40:26; J Steph 4:40:27; H Pospiech 4:40:27; B Rosberg 4:40:27; T Hale 4:40:28; C Cazes 4:40:28; R Hadaway 4:40:28; A Dixon 4:40:28; H De Gooyer 4:40:28; C Warner 4:40:28; J Brotherton 4:40:28; J Thomas 4:40:28; N McIver 4:40:28; D Barratt 4:40:28; M Wall 4:40:28; A Forrester 4:40:28; A Constanti 4:40:29; R Goodman 4:40:30; P Mitchell 4:40:30; P McDonnell 4:40:30; G Freeman 4:40:31; D Hansen 4:40:31; M Hanson 4:40:31; N Wallen 4:40:32; D Thompson 4:40:32; S Holliday 4:40:32; D Haden 4:40:32; G Vaisade 4:40:33; G Steward 4:40:33; L Whitehouse 4:40:34; S Mason 4:40:34; E Hall 4:40:34; B Veitch 4:40:34; L Engleman 4:40:34; N McMahon 4:40:35; M Cooper 4:40:35; J Cuwell 4:40:35; D Elder 4:40:35; B Cottle 4:40:36; N Macgregor 4:40:37; G Cosens 4:40:37; C Hansen 4:40:37; R Rees 4:40:37; A Mullem 4:40:38; M Watts 4:40:39; D Icke 4:40:39; N Howard 4:40:39; F Mollo 4:40:39; C Murray 4:40:39; S Bayley 4:40:40; M Mountjoy 4:40:40; M McGurk 4:40:41; C Palmer 4:40:41; D Elliott 4:40:41; R Palmer 4:40:41; R Grange 4:40:42; S Vatcher 4:40:42; P Andrews 4:40:42; T Colbourne 4:40:43; A Neal 4:40:43; S Atkinson 4:40:43; C Addison 4:40:43; C Franklin 4:40:44; R Clothier 4:40:44; T Skinner 4:40:44; M Carroll 4:40:44; A Lyons 4:40:44; G Mahon 4:40:45; M Bayada 4:40:45; B John 4:40:45; T Kirwan 4:40:45; P Whitehead 4:40:45; N Hayes 4:40:46; A Masaki 4:40:46; D Stone 4:40:46; S Williams 4:40:46; A Smith 4:40:47; S Bundy 4:40:47; C Meel Van 4:40:47; B Hoogland 4:40:47; R Braven Den 4:40:47; D Shears 4:40:47; J Mace 4:40:47; A Woodrow 4:40:48; S Roach 4:40:48; G Powell 4:40:48; K Cooper 4:40:48; D Yarranton 4:40:49; T Miller 4:40:49; P Curran 4:40:50; R Gretton 4:40:50; D Slater 4:40:51.

17,001 N Howell 4:40:52; A Martin 4:40.52; G Vincent 4:40:53; I Daniell 4:40:54; S Mizukoshi 4:40:54; D Eacott 4:40:55; K Hennessey 4:40:55; S Nordhagen 4:40:55; T Hyldon 4:40:56; C Allaway 4:40:56; C Springham 4:40:57; M Powell 4:40:57; M Tidman 4:40:57; G Lunn 4:40:57; D Cerase 4:40:57; S Johnson 4:40:57; E Morassi 4:40:57; T Nixon 4:40:57; D Day 4:40:57; A Klop 4:40:57; J Green 4:40:57; S Cottle 4:40:58; D Hadjidakis 4:40:58; S Brown 4:40:59; N Currie 4:40:59; M Letrehour 4:40:59; S Desmond 4:40:59; G Henry 4:40:59; S Barber 4:41:01; K Sonnex 4:41:02; T Searle 4:41:03; R Atkinson 4:41:05; G Tissot-Dupont 4:41:06; M Taylor 4:41:06; D Cannan 4:41:07; K Marshall 4:41:07; C Davis 4:41:07; D Davis 4:41:07; A Macleod 4:41:07; M Nicolleau 4:41:07; G Marshall 4:41:08; A Stitcher 4:41:08; C Walker 4:41:09; D Broadhurst 4:41:11; P Newman 4:41:11; G Sankey 4:41:12; S Crump 4:41:12; J Cruickshank 4:41:12; D Lundon 4:41:13; P Still 4:41:13; S Bonin 4:41:13; J Gray 4:41:14; A Richards 4:41:14; I Harrison 4:41:14; I McNeil 4:41:14; D Stewart 4:41:14; H Newton 4:41:14; G Thomas 4:41:14; R Colley 4:41:14; M Duffield 4:41:14; J Everson 4:41:15; J Perich 4:41:15; S Dixon 4:41:15; R Burgess 4:41:15; M Ramsey 4:41:16; R Taylor 4:41:16; F Calnan 4:41:16; J Clarke 4:41:16; S Hudson 4:41:17; K Dean 4:41:17; S Bradbury 4:41:17; B Oliver 4:41:18; L Archer 4:41:19; T Davies 4:41:20; A Carnall 4:41:20; R Tarrant 4:41:20; R Taylor 4:41:20; B Hall 4:41:21; D Dawson 4:41:21; J Mason 4:41:21; D Smith 4:41:21; M Hughes 4:41:22; K Tribe 4:41:22; H Jokobsen 4:41:22; J Fichoux 4:41:22; S Brokenshaw 4:41:23; M Offer 4:41:23; K Morden 4:41:23; W More-King 4:41:24; M Middleton 4:41:24; P Banks 4:41:24; H Kitchener 4:41:25; J Phipps 4:41:25; B Collins 4:41:25; P Greenhalgh 4:41:25; J Hateley 4:41:26; B Hobday 4:41:26; M Farrar 4:41:26; G Fowler 4:41:27; P Hall 4:41:27.

17,101 J Petersen 4:41:28; H Pedersen 4:41:28; C McCulloch 4:41:28; B Jones 4:41:30; M Farman 4:41:30; D Hawley 4:41:31; M Smith 4:41:32; L Plazzi 4:41:32; M Williams 4:41:32; W Lottes 4:41:32; K Garforth 4:41:33; J Tavener 4:41:33; D Allen 4:41:34; A Viccari 4:41:34; R Bettini 4:41:34; N Pready 4:41:34; S Robertson 4:41:34; E Bostock 4:41:35; A Perry 4:41:35; T Free 4:41:36; G Thirkell 4:41:36; J Daley 4:41:36; D Brunt 4:41:36; V Labarre 4:41:37; D Harris 4:41:37; P Grove 4:41:38; W Goadsby 4:41:39; J Lynch 4:41:39; J Abell 4:41:40; S Brehm 4:41:40; R Shaw 4:41:40; H Scheurich 4:41:40; S Germer 4:41:41; L Jiva 4:41:41; S Niedojadlo 4:41:41; J Reque 4:41:41; W Archer 4:41:43; D Prendergast 4:41:43; K Anda 4:41:44; P Wolfe 4:41:45; D Johns 4:41:46; M Kasar 4:41:46; M Batt 4:41:46; P Smoothy 4:41:46; T Carr 4:41:46; R McDermott 4:41:46; J Rich 4:41:46; R Chaplin 4:41:47; I Robinson 4:41:47; J Garrett 4:41:47; T Newell 4:41:47; D Clubb 4:41:47; D Bartlett 4:41:47; C McEwen 4:41:47; R Selzer 4:41:48; J Dougan 4:41:48; J Roberts 4:41:48; G Whitmore 4:41:49; L Haye 4:41:49; B Roseenberg 4:41:49; S Fairchild 4:41:49; C Russell 4:41:49; L Holmes 4:41:50; K Cockroft 4:41:50; M Redsell 4:41:52; J Williams 4:41:52; D Keightley 4:41:52; M Brownhill 4:41:52; M Brownhill 4:41:52; V Roucairol 4:41:52; P Margett 4:41:52; A Lloyd 4:41:52; J Palmer 4:41:52; M Cockroft 4:41:52; T Langford 4:41:52; S Shardlow 4:41:53; R Skinner 4:41:55; S Cockroft 4:41:55; S Johnstone 4:41:55; G Burley 4:41:56; J Smith 4:41:56; P Curtis 4:41:58; M Turner 4:41:58; S O'Farrell 4:41:59; J Minty 4:41:59; T Powell 4:41:59; M Kirkland 4:41:59; J Dowling 4:41:59; G Redge 4:41:59; P Best 4:41:59; M Spiro 4:42:01; R Harris 4:42:01; M Goldby 4:42:02; M Letheren 4:42:02; P Costello 4:42:03; W Adeney 4:42:03; S Rhymes 4:42:03; W Spence 4:42:04; G Mackay 4:42:04; N Robinson 4:42:04.

17,201 J Kelly 4:42:04; R Phillips 4:42:05; T Mason 4:42:06; G Hawes 4:42:06; T Martin 4:42:08; R Davenport 4:42:08; I McAllister 4:42:09; S Zera 4:42:09; R Souter 4:42:13; P Hall 4:42:13; P Wallis 4:42:14; S Spikin 4:42:14; A White 4:42:15; C Locke 4:42:15; S Goodburn 4:42:15; T Santos 4:42:16; Z Howard 4:42:16; A Sale 4:42:16; G Wilkinson 4:42:17; M Williams 4:42:18; J Dixon 4:42:18; S Rice 4:42:19; C Stagg 4:42:20; J Waller 4:42:20; A Harmon 4:42:20; A Muto 4:42:20; D Freeman 4:42:20; M Jarvis 4:42:20; K Bone 4:42:20; R Gibson 4:42:20; R Chatburn 4:42:21; P Sauterey 4:42:21; D Foster 4:42:22; D Alford 4:42:23; M Attwood 4:42:23; L Loughlin 4:42:23; A Thorne 4:42:24; A Fearn 4:42:24; M Tester 4:42:24; M Clare 4:42:24; M Beach 4:42:25; J Gray 4:42:25; P Fox 4:42:26; P Tripp 4:42:27; P Thomas 4:42:28; R Toms 4:42:30; D Alexander 4:42:30; S Van Der Schyff 4:42:30; S Christie 4:42:30; R Ellis 4:42:30; C Fallon 4:42:30; R Rook 4:42:30; D Burgess 4:42:30; C Holder 4:42:30; S Whitcher 4:42:30; S Holloway 4:42:30; A Carrolan 4:42:30; G Garner 4:42:30; D Bankart 4:42:30; R Cotterill 4:42:31; D Jarman 4:42:31; V Martindale 4:42:31; J King 4:42:32; D Tarrant 4:42:32; C Dring 4:42:33; D Wicker 4:42:33; R Hiscock 4:42:34; G Cripps 4:42:34; R McKie 4:42:34; A Moran 4:42:35; N Harvatt 4:42:35; R Gilding 4:42:37; J Kimberley 4:42:37; J Andouard 4:42:38; C Yves 4:42:38;

FLORA LONDON MARATHON

R Green 4:42:38; R Clune 4:42:39; D Webster 4:42:39; J Davies 4:42:39; K Kaneko 4:42:40; C Walte 4:42:40; M Stanfield 4:42:40; R Jenkinson 4:42:40; T Lawson 4:42:41; J Russell 4:42:42; W Gasson 4:42:42; D Anderson 4:42:43; A Yates 4:42:43; R Farquharson 4:42:44; R Taylor 4:42:45; R Mark 4:42:45; A Petschen 4:42:48; K Jokipii 4:42:49; N Howe 4:42:49; D Cornwall 4:42:49; T Parkins 4:42:50; A Good 4:42:50; J Malinsky 4:42:50; A Kelly 4:42:51; P Newbold 4:42:51.

17,301 C Barnacle 4:42:51; N Rawlence 4:42:51; R Sammons 4:42:52; G Sharp 4:42:52; A Baker 4:42:52; I Matthews 4:42:53; D Zilber 4:42:53; T Hodgkinson 4:42:53; R Kirk 4:42:53; B O'Connor 4:42:53; M Happonen 4:42:53; J Webb 4:42:53; R Jones 4:42:53; S Mitchell 4:42:54; T Preston 4:42:54; G Bell 4:42:54; K Humphries 4:42:54; G Staff 4:42:54; S Browne 4:42:54; D Warren 4:42:54; J Stock 4:42:54; R Page 4:42:54; S Maclean 4:42:54; M D'arcy 4:42:54; L Vines 4:42:54; A Upstone 4:42:54; C Greener 4:42:54; M Spencer 4:42:55; C Moyle 4:42:56; G Crane 4:42:56; M Vigni 4:42:57; K Pagano 4:42:58; M Aldridge 4:42:58; S Randall 4:42:59; C Morgan 4:43:00; P David 4:43:00; B Bonnar 4:43:00; G Guenther-Seeliger 4:43:01; M Osborne 4:43:01; R Tracey 4:43:01; K Frostick 4:43:01; G Rudolphi 4:43:01; J Whiting 4:43:01; A Hirsley 4:43:01; J Bush 4:43:01; A Breeze 4:43:01; C Green 4:43:01; A Hughes 4:43:02; G Treadwell 4:43:04; L Cochrane 4:43:05; A Bushaway 4:43:05; C Mowat 4:43:07; D Bardsley 4:43:07; G Causier 4:43:07; G Coleman 4:43:07; D Halstead 4:43:07; J Blowers 4:43:07; M Lees 4:43:09; R Pugh 4:43:10; D Fitchie 4:43:10; R Paterson 4:43:10; R Newton 4:43:10; K Jenkins 4:43:10; M Kelly 4:43:11; K Volsey 4:43:11; J Farmer 4:43:11; J Kett 4:43:11; A Murphy 4:43:11; J Stals 4:43:11; N Farrow 4:43:11; C Guest 4:43:11; H Rudkin 4:43:12; R Whitten 4:43:12; M Lawson 4:43:13; S Hart 4:43:13; S Fleming 4:43:13; K Jones 4:43:15; C Anderson 4:43:15; G Momcilovic 4:43:15; D Brice 4:43:16; M Inness 4:43:16; B Grandahl 4:43:17; A Buck 4:43:17; J Butler 4:43:17; K Sams 4:43:17; D Brady 4:43:17; N Lennox-Robb 4:43:17; C Scamell 4:43:18; G Perry 4:43:18; D Martin 4:43:19; A Jones 4:43:20; J Gregory 4:43:20; M Kong 4:43:22; E Hodgson 4:43:22; T Gann 4:43:23; R Morenas 4:43:23; N Zorzi 4:43:23; G Williamson 4:43:24; P Wood 4:43:24; P Hamilton 4:43:25.

17,401 D Hamilton 4:43:25; L Cooper 4:43:25; J Long 4:43:27; S Delahunt 4:43:28; D Birch 4:43:28; D Mitchell 4:43:29; D Greenbaum 4:43:29; M Kendrick 4:43:30; C Elligott 4:43:30; M Philipps 4:43:30; K Francis 4:43:30; J Guven 4:43:30; T Guvett 4:43:30; S Freeman 4:43:30; T Hunter-Crump 4:43:30; P Ellis 4:43:30; J Abramiuk 4:43:30; R Clanfield 4:43:30; D Moreland 4:43:30; D Waterton 4:43:30; R Martin 4:43:30; S Holmes 4:43:30; D McDonald 4:43:30; R Riddell 4:43:30; T Gagnon 4:43:30; S Kennedy Jr 4:43:31; G Ball 4:43:31; W Hussain 4:43:32; J Bacon 4:43:32; B Gugalka 4:43:33; J Wilson 4:43:34; D Moran 4:43:35; M Wade 4:43:36; D Woodhall 4:43:36; J Nannes 4:43:38; B Fonnesbech 4:43:38; J Russell 4:43:38; L Hime 4:43:38; E Burke 4:43:39; H Napper 4:43:39; T Jones 4:43:39; M Yates 4:43:39; T Osborne 4:43:40; J Mikkelsen 4:43:40; A Mabert 4:43:40; A Pearn 4:43:41; M Bedwell 4:43:41; G Thornton 4:43:41; G Mason 4:43:42; S Whittingham 4:43:42; M Powell 4:43:43; R Schreiber 4:43:43; D Bijkerk 4:43:44; C Atton 4:43:44; R Burt 4:43:45; J Thomson 4:43:46; D Long 4:43:46; A Pearce 4:43:47; A Broadhurst 4:43:47; R Hynds 4:43:48; A Garratt 4:43:49; L Aliker 4:43:50; G Wilkins 4:43:51; T Minshall 4:43:51; D Fowler 4:43:52; J Henderson 4:43:53; W Callanan 4:43:53; S Leonardo 4:43:54; A English 4:43:55; L Wolbring 4:43:55; C Trice 4:43:56; M Morris 4:43:57; W Cook 4:43:57; I Nash 4:43:57; S Woodford 4:43:57; K Rishton 4:43:57; A Dudoit 4:43:58; G Pratt 4:43:58; S Lightfoot 4:43:58; S Smith 4:43:58; B Wroe 4:43:58; D Horsfall 4:43:58; D Martin 4:43:58; B Allen 4:43:58; K Honda 4:44:00; L Gugalka 4:44:00; J Docherty 4:44:00; M Smith 4:44:01; C Passera 4:44:01; K Quinn 4:44:02; H Koelker 4:44:02; E Sherwood 4:44:02; M Jones 4:44:02; A Jones 4:44:02; R Billinghurst 4:44:03; R Danbury 4:44:04; S Andrzejewski 4:44:04; M Watts 4:44:04; S Langdon 4:44:04; G Lees 4:44:04.

17,501 M Jones 4:44:05; M Wilkins 4:44:05; H Jones 4:44:05; B Graham 4:44:05; D Lonnen 4:44:05; D Jackson 4:44:05; A Wood 4:44:06; N Maidment 4:44:06; D Milner 4:44:07; J McGarry 4:44:07; R Dieterich 4:44:08; J Rubino 4:44:08; H Duce 4:44:08; P Buckels 4:44:09; A Kyriakidis 4:44:09; R Belsey 4:44:09; R Wooster 4:44:10; C Samyxiwa 4:44:11; C Whyman 4:44:12; D Tyrell 4:44:13; T Gwyther 4:44:13; D Hard 4:44:14; P Rowe 4:44:14; G Maury 4:44:14; K Evans 4:44:15; R Patrick 4:44:15; R Cooley 4:44:15; A Wiles 4:44:15; K Reader 4:44:15; T McBride 4:44:16; M McLeod 4:44:16; B Turner 4:44:16; J Andrews 4:44:16; M McGinty 4:44:16; J Hopkins 4:44:16; D Campbell 4:44:16; S Teichman 4:44:16; R Blacker 4:44:16; P Bates 4:44:16; T Jugg 4:44:17; P Knight 4:44:18; H Maylor 4:44:18; S Donowho 4:44:18; D Sharland 4:44:19; P Chamberlain 4:44:19; T Moyson 4:44:21; A Bake 4:44:22; I Rennie 4:44:22; C Schembri 4:44:22; D Thomas 4:44:22; M Anderson 4:44:22; J Gouveia 4:44:22; D Rekassa 4:44:24; P Davies 4:44:24; A Brown 4:44:24; G Wilkinson 4:44:25; M Stephenson 4:44:25; J Tedder 4:44:25; R Dehlitsch 4:44:26; R Cannon 4:44:27; R Gibson 4:44:27; M Guard 4:44:27; M Wahn 4:44:27; A Thiel 4:44:28; C Wilderspin 4:44:28; D Stokoe 4:44:29; T Braycotton 4:44:29; A Potts 4:44:29; K Naylor 4:44:29; J Bourne 4:44:29; A Smith 4:44:29; D Pearce 4:44:29; A Bell 4:44:29; D Jones 4:44:29; G Hercus 4:44:30; G Botteley 4:44:30; S James 4:44:30; W Naroska 4:44:30; S Willis 4:44:31; J Dennis 4:44:33; A Mann 4:44:34; B Liversedge 4:44:34; T Wood 4:44:34; J Eyles 4:44:34; J Twomey 4:44:34; P Wakeford 4:44:34; J McCullie 4:44:34; A Garber 4:44:34; J Brandon 4:44:34; H Battle 4:44:34; A Spicer 4:44:34; C Linwood 4:44:34; M Graham 4:44:34; A White 4:44:34; S Robinson 4:44:34; O Bleuse 4:44:34; A Nishimura 4:44:34; D Okeeffe 4:44:34; G Dixon 4:44:34; L Howley 4:44:34.

17,601 R Rigby 4:44:34; K Ratton 4:44:34; A Sword 4:44:34; C Womersley 4:44:34; C Cherlin 4:44:35; S Sherlock 4:44:35; J Phillips 4:44:37; R Meller 4:44:37; P Roll 4:44:39; N Hooton 4:44:39; D Pitts 4:44:40; P Hornby 4:44:40; Y Nishijima 4:44:41; N Tuplin 4:44:42; D Kay 4:44:42; M Blakeley 4:44:43; C Cooper 4:44:44; W Spreadbury 4:44:44; T Nicholls 4:44:45; C Shepherd 4:44:47; M Avil 4:44:47; P Llewellyn 4:44:47; T Andrew 4:44:47; R Snaith 4:44:47; H Richards 4:44:47; N Sears 4:44:49; L Minns 4:44:49; P Matheson 4:44:49; G Manzo 4:44:49; M McCarthy 4:44:50; A Meureux 4:44:51; J Clark 4:44:51; P White 4:44:51; C Paget 4:44:52; G Joyce 4:44:53; A Chan 4:44:54; P Vandenbussche 4:44:54; Y Donlan 4:44:55; L Wallenborg 4:44:56; W Jolsce 4:44:57; D Hammal 4:44:57; S Poole 4:44:57; N Honey 4:44:58; D Bateman 4:44:58; E Redpath 4:44:58; C Darbyshire 4:44:59; D Arnold 4:44:59; T Kidd 4:45:01; N Hobbs 4:45:02; T Blanchard 4:45:03; M Russell 4:45:03; P Sampey 4:45:03; S Planchant 4:45:04; S Chapman 4:45:04; D Barrow 4:45:05; L Morris 4:45:05; A Roshier 4:45:05; A Emerson 4:45:05; P Ward 4:45:05; M Stride 4:45:07; P Graham 4:45:08; E North 4:45:08; C Joel 4:45:09; J Clawson 4:45:09; M Oldfield 4:45:09; A Livingston 4:45:09; G Hobbes 4:45:10; R Shallcross 4:45:10; R Fabbro 4:45:10; C Rangeley 4:45:11; S Holt 4:45:11; G Rumary 4:45:12; S Bisse 4:45:12; C Nelson 4:45:12; J France 4:45:12; S Foy 4:45:13; G Coote 4:45:14; F Marston 4:45:15; P Walter 4:45:15; J Fairhead 4:45:15; G Hoglund 4:45:15; D Hall 4:45:16; M Maher 4:45:16; A Reavey 4:45:17; P Tonks 4:45:19; J King 4:45:19; G Ilston 4:45:19; J Olkkonen 4:45:19; C Raw-Rees 4:45:20; E Heardman 4:45:20; D Stanley 4:45:20; J Barrett 4:45:20; S Tarry 4:45:20; S De Minico 4:45:21; J Ash 4:45:21; A Rudge 4:45:21; P McLear 4:45:21; J Dolphin 4:45:21; J Reardon III 4:45:22; S Smith 4:45:22.

17,701 C Norton 4:45:23; I Potton 4:45:23; I Belsham 4:45:23; P Grenda 4:45:24; K King 4:45:24; C Firth 4:45:24; B Verdickt 4:45:25; C Healey 4:45:25; J Stableford 4:45:25; M Kirk 4:45:27; J Tod 4:45:27; M Constance 4:45:27; K Pealin 4:45:27; H Middendorp 4:45:28; S Choak 4:45:28; D Batterton 4:45:29; R Eckert 4:45:29; A McGhee 4:45:29; D Exley 4:45:31; J Bennett 4:45:31; D Wodehouse 4:45:31; P Sherwood 4:45:33; J Sammely 4:45:33; O Sammely 4:45:33; A Iblabud 4:45:34; J Singh 4:45:34; P Kingston 4:45:36; A Clevett 4:45:36; M Bradsell 4:45:37; P Johnson 4:45:37; D Beard 4:45:38; H Yamahoto 4:45:38; N Inns 4:45:38; P Moylan 4:45:39; J Holmes 4:45:39; E Cranston 4:45:39; H Parker 4:45:39; L Bissett 4:45:40; N Grainger 4:45:41; R Stutz 4:45:41; M Loughlin 4:45:42; T Hobson 4:45:43; C Duggan 4:45:43; D Rowlands 4:45:43; A Payne 4:45:43; S Scott 4:45:44; R Verniers 4:45:44; S Howatson 4:45:44; G Ambler 4:45:44; R Sharp 4:45:44; C Hales 4:45:45; S Coyne 4:45:45; L Holmes 4:45:45; G Reed 4:45:45; H Fradley 4:45:46; J Wring 4:45:46; R Holt 4:45:46; A Sayer 4:45:46; R Bush 4:45:47; K Wilson 4:45:47; I Roth 4:45:47; G Fogaarty 4:45:48; M Murch 4:45:49; B Jenkins 4:45:49; G Whitehead 4:45:49; J Wright 4:45:49; R Roadknight 4:45:50; B Gleeson 4:45:50; C Tindall 4:45:50; A Fountain 4:45:50; J Wild 4:45:51; A Taylor 4:45:51; A McGroarty 4:45:51; C Emmis 4:45:51; M Stewart 4:45:51; D Kales 4:45:51; S Long 4:45:51; D Anderson 4:45:52; C Sims 4:45:52; D Belcher 4:45:52; S Hart 4:45:52; J Oreilly 4:45:52; G Rackstraw 4:45:52; H Seal 4:45:52; S Butcher 4:45:52; D Lewis 4:45:52; P Buckle 4:45:52; J Cuddy 4:45:53; N Ferns 4:45:54; J Brown 4:45:54; P Summersgill 4:45:55; J Jeffery 4:45:55; I Scott 4:45:55; S Holloway 4:45:58; D Price 4:45:58; L Turton 4:45:58; T Brice 4:45:58; L McGuckian 4:45:58; P Harris 4:45:59; R Walter 4:46:00.

17,801 K Lazell 4:46:00; B Strathie 4:46:00; A Hayes 4:46:00; S Roberts 4:46:01; T Turner 4:46:01; P Dickins 4:46:01; S Lotherington 4:46:02; R Northam 4:46:02; A Baker 4:46:03; S Evans 4:46:03; M Cleary 4:46:04; S King 4:46:05; A Philpott 4:46:05; M Cronin 4:46:05; F Micoletti 4:46:05; A Kirschenbaum 4:46:05; M Woodford 4:46:05; M Howe 4:46:05; A Meade 4:46:05; T Solan 4:46:05; B Griffin 4:46:06; R Dibble 4:46:06; D Seligman 4:46:06; I Dibble 4:46:07; R Stokes 4:46:07; M Bradley 4:46:07; T Simmons 4:46:07; A Holbrow 4:46:07; J Seller 4:46:09; M Wilmott 4:46:09; G Mehan 4:46:10; B Gray 4:46:10; D Cooke 4:46:13; P Jaruszewski 4:46:13; G Charleston 4:46:13; G Tufton 4:46:13; G Bell 4:46:13; J Szakas 4:46:13; E Dupont-Madinier 4:46:13; R Carpin 4:46:14; M Gmcnamara 4:46:15; P Candeago 4:46:15; V Jewell 4:46:15; R Deprez 4:46:15; M Wood 4:46:16; K Patton 4:46:17; M Mason 4:46:17; C Kitchin 4:46:17; L Voraita 4:46:18; O Bell 4:46:18; I Gould 4:46:18; M Gavigan 4:46:19; S Bannister 4:46:20; W Stevens 4:46:20; T Hegarty 4:46:21; K Graesli 4:46:21; D Sawyer 4:46:21; D Shovlin 4:46:21; J Crosby 4:46:21; D Hathaway 4:46:22; G Lowe 4:46:22; M Caps 4:46:22; A Morrison 4:46:22; B Vine 4:46:23; K Schubert 4:46:23; D Ferris 4:46:24; T Chapman 4:46:24; S Ellis 4:46:24; D Gale 4:46:24; P Burden 4:46:25; C Oldham 4:46:25; S Johnson 4:46:25; I Newberry 4:46:25; A Hassan El Hassan 4:46:25; S Anderson 4:46:25; S Atkins 4:46:25; W Palmer 4:46:27; C Cameron 4:46:28; M Harris 4:46:28; G Waters 4:46:29; D Landrum 4:46:29; B Lupton 4:46:29; K White 4:46:29; R Donohue 4:46:29; R Morris 4:46:30; P Parr 4:46:30; R Persey 4:46:30; R Byrne 4:46:30; M Udale 4:46:30; A Huggett 4:46:30; C Pratt 4:46:30; R Taylor 4:46:30; R Knox 4:46:30; B Schaad 4:46:30; S Johal 4:46:31; B Gojkovic 4:46:31; J Roos 4:46:31; M Dhal 4:46:32; D Obineau 4:46:32; M Davies 4:46:32.

17,901 M Falkson 4:46:32; R Dahl 4:46:33; G Packham 4:46:33; H Hanarden 4:46:33; D Ashley 4:46:34; J Caro 4:46:34; P Cotton 4:46:34; M Wakeling 4:46:34; J Williams 4:46:35; G Pendry 4:46:35; G Rainger 4:46:35; N Radford 4:46:35; J Brierley 4:46:36; M Clarke 4:46:36; G Norgett 4:46:37; P Impey 4:46:37; G Pratt 4:46:38; H Man 4:46:39; D Lowes 4:46:39; J Hodgson 4:46:39; L Turner 4:46:40; J McAllister 4:46:40; H Townley 4:46:40; D Kennedy 4:46:40; S Redford 4:46:40; K Hutchison 4:46:40; P Hall 4:46:40; I Taylor 4:46:40; S Dawson 4:46:41; J Thomas 4:46:41; J Laight 4:46:41; M Williams 4:46:41; C Thompson 4:46:42; J Salgueiro 4:46:42; J Murray 4:46:43; D Campbell 4:46:43; D John 4:46:44; A Holder 4:46:44; C Smallman 4:46:44; P Millbank 4:46:44; B James 4:46:45; T McGavin 4:46:45; D Page 4:46:46; D Cole 4:46:46; B Hurley 4:46:47; P Mortensen 4:46:47; A Welsh 4:46:48; J Foss 4:46:48; M Yeates 4:46:49; C Williams 4:46:49; P Jackson 4:46:49; D Stewart 4:46:50; M Yeldham 4:46:50; D Byng 4:46:50; K Seccombe 4:46:50; R Craig 4:46:50; P Nixson 4:46:50; J Moses 4:46:50; G McManus 4:46:50; N Durrant 4:46:50; S Cayless 4:46:51; P Green 4:46:51; J Kaminski 4:46:51; T Lewis 4:46:51; R Kelly 4:46:52; A Kirk 4:46:52; S Woodhouse 4:46:52; P Thompson 4:46:52; M Sargeant 4:46:52; L Bailey 4:46:53; J Hampshire 4:46:53; E Dickinson 4:46:53; P Dickinson 4:46:53; S Hall 4:46:53; T Chapman 4:46:53; L Barnett 4:46:54; H Bowley 4:46:54; D Eley 4:46:54; P King 4:46:55; L Nogueira 4:46:55; P Doyle 4:46:55; P Madden 4:46:56; F Josephs 4:46:56; M Russell 4:46:56; S Clay 4:46:57; R Palmer 4:46:58; R Stephens 4:46:58; R Walker 4:46:59; J Hurst 4:46:59; J Greenacre 4:46:59; B Whitmore 4:46:59; I Ball 4:46:59; M Jones 4:46:59; N Hooper 4:46:59; S Batchelor 4:47:00; A Bond 4:47:00; M Portas 4:47:00; W Marston 4:47:02; J Lock 4:47:02; J Jennings 4:47:02.

18,001 S Hollands 4:47:02; F Van De Horst 4:47:02; K Jones 4:47:03; W Bates 4:47:03; V McDade 4:47:03; A Turvey 4:47:04; K Mayes 4:47:04; A Davies 4:47:04; C McInnes 4:47:05; J Tremere 4:47:05; D Morton 4:47:06; C Holdway 4:47:06; T Clark 4:47:06; P Donlon 4:47:06; P Brandrick 4:47:06; A Stacey 4:47:06; P Lloyd 4:47:07; C Ashkettle 4:47:07; S Baird 4:47:07; M O'Connor 4:47:07; A Marshall 4:47:07; G Jones 4:47:07; S Anstey 4:47:09; C Wilson 4:47:09; R Warren 4:47:09; R Elvin 4:47:09; N Symeou 4:47:10; D West 4:47:11; C Steenson 4:47:11; K Beaver 4:47:11; E Beever 4:47:11; S Thompson 4:47:11; P Gale 4:47:12; B Parkinson 4:47:12; D Meuric 4:47:12; J Oliver 4:47:12; S Oliver 4:47:13; S Chipchase 4:47:14; B Messaoud 4:47:14; K Bryceland 4:47:15; M White 4:47:15; R Oulton 4:47:15; F Newsome 4:47:15; G Sellick 4:47:15; P Goodsall 4:47:15; F Wohlfahrt 4:47:16; C Jacobs 4:47:16; W Fairweather 4:47:17; M Smith 4:47:17; S Bramley-Ball 4:47:17; M Richards 4:47:18; R Butler 4:47:19; G Juster 4:47:20; R Gatheridge 4:47:20; I Austin 4:47:23; H Britton 4:47:24; D Farthing 4:47:24; N Payne 4:47:24; C Rose 4:47:26; N Holbeche 4:47:26; J Lefler 4:47:27; J Harbottle 4:47:27; Z Courtenay 4:47:27; G Tee 4:47:28; M Liversidge 4:47:30; C Burton 4:47:30; D Bewley 4:47:30; P Clarke 4:47:31; J Anderson 4:47:31; M Cox 4:47:31; S Hinds 4:47:31; S Rees 4:47:31; V Mutch 4:47:31; V Potter 4:47:31; A Ganderton 4:47:31; J Hugo 4:47:32; C Dickson 4:47:32; J Cascarini 4:47:32; K Stronach 4:47:33; P Freedman 4:47:33; R Clarke 4:47:33; P Portengen 4:47:34; A Freer 4:47:34; J Elkins 4:47:34; A Hill 4:47:35; J Bouley 4:47:36; G Wilbraham 4:47:36; K Coke 4:47:37; M Garard 4:47:37; G Loftus 4:47:37; M Wieb 4:47:37; S Francis 4:47:37; G Highmoor 4:47:37; R Sherlock 4:47:38; C Taylor 4:47:38; P Deletang 4:47:39; R Ansell 4:47:39; J Warminger 4:47:40; M Woodgate 4:47:40; J Hurst 4:47:41.

ADRIAN BROOKS

A team of policemen make an arresting sight together with a Save The Rhino campaigner at the start at Blackheath

18,101 P Curran 4:47:41; R Boyson 4:47:41; E Williams 4:47:42; P Crow 4:47:42; P Mills 4:47:43; F Garlake 4:47:43; S Kool 4:47:45; E Beckers 4:47:45; R Purbrick 4:47:46; P Enright 4:47:47; R Horrocks 4:47:47; P Slater 4:47:49; T Clipston 4:47:49; S Blachford 4:47:49; P Le Beguec 4:47:49; A Smithson 4:47:50; T Taylor-Woodward 4:47:50; P Deputis 4:47:50; J Duncanson 4:47:51; P Dillon 4:47:51; A Lewis-Jones 4:47:51; S Sherry 4:47:51; D Cooper 4:47:51; D Baldwinson 4:47:51; K West 4:47:51; L Wootton 4:47:51; C Benton 4:47:51; S Knott 4:47:51; P Thomas 4:47:51; G Pendrill 4:47:52; M Haworth 4:47:53; A Linford 4:47:54; A Harwood 4:47:54; N Grace 4:47:55; P May 4:47:55; N Frost 4:47:55; D Hewitt 4:47:55; T Smith 4:47:55; S Carter 4:47:55; P Arnold 4:47:55; A Butcher 4:47:56; J Calme 4:47:56; G Willis 4:47:56; E Loftus 4:47:58; C Bowman 4:47:59; E Martin 4:48:00; A Linskey 4:48:00; C Sauquet 4:48:01; G Hervet 4:48:01; S Argyle 4:48:01; A Hope 4:48:02; M Jervis 4:48:02; A Goodyear 4:48:02; N Mackenzie 4:48:03; R Ford 4:48:03; K Grant 4:48:03; T Hunt 4:48:03; P Brand 4:48:04; P Robertson 4:48:04; A Dickson 4:48:05; H Kristensen 4:48:05; T Goodwin 4:48:05; P Hannell 4:48:05; N Crook 4:48:05; L Whiley 4:48:05; B Smith 4:48:06; M Powell 4:48:06; S Gibbs 4:48:06; P Mound 4:48:06; M Bonilla 4:48:06; S Pearce 4:48:07; G Steele 4:48:07; M Barnier 4:48:08; S Chandavarkar 4:48:08; M Quillerier 4:48:08; R Hill 4:48:08; G Granchamp 4:48:08; R Philippe 4:48:09; A Clarke 4:48:09; F Haynes 4:48:09; J Marshall 4:48:09; A Byers 4:48:09; D Hirschberg 4:48:09; B Wilkinson 4:48:10; K Franklin 4:48:10; A Rae 4:48:11; K Buschkamp 4:48:11; D Ferguson 4:48:11; J Tomlinson 4:48:11; L Brown 4:48:11; N Hannah 4:48:11; J Hill 4:48:11; M Cribb 4:48:11; B Todhunter 4:48:11; J Anton 4:48:11; A Foster 4:48:11; T Ripley 4:48:11; T Sekse 4:48:11; T Murphy 4:48:12; D Sutton 4:48:12.

18,201 J Salisbury 4:48:12; M McGrath 4:48:12; M Reid 4:48:13; D Clayton 4:48:13; B Short 4:48:13; D Burbridge 4:48:13; D Lawn 4:48:14; R Paul 4:48:14; P Walton 4:48:14; D Michael 4:48:15; M Flynn 4:48:15; T Wiggett 4:48:15; S Shearden 4:48:15; J Godding 4:48:16; E Maillard 4:48:16; K Lumsden 4:48:16; S Smoegelin 4:48:17; J Howarth 4:48:17; T O'Neill 4:48:17; G Jones 4:48:17; J Darley 4:48:18; C Godfrey 4:48:18; P Broider 4:48:18; C Bourne 4:48:18; T Kelly 4:48:19; V Bithell 4:48:20; G Swann 4:48:21; A Eastment 4:48:21; M Lacabe 4:48:21; M Camidge 4:48:21; D Pereira 4:48:22; B Pereira 4:48:22; P Cradden 4:48:22; L Twigg 4:48:22; P Chapman 4:48:22; R Stevenson 4:48:23; L Berriman 4:48:23; A Husbands 4:48:23; H Brierley 4:48:23; S Brierley 4:48:24; G Porter 4:48:24; R Sawyer 4:48:24; A Taylor 4:48:24; D Johns 4:48:24; T Doe 4:48:24; M Barnes 4:48:24; K Godward 4:48:25; K Lauritsen 4:48:26; A Mayo 4:48:26; N Pollock 4:48:26; G Roberts 4:48:27; P Charlton 4:48:29; M Young 4:48:29; G Holmes 4:48:29; S Baker 4:48:29; S Coste 4:48:31; I Johnson 4:48:32; R Howell 4:48:32; R Jackson 4:48:32; T Walters 4:48:33; R Sheehan 4:48:33; N Coleman 4:48:33; S Sharkey 4:48:33; P Rogers 4:48:33; D Miller 4:48:33; G Goulding 4:48:33; S Hemingway 4:48:33; I Jones 4:48:34; M Viriouvet 4:48:35; J Davies 4:48:36; T Tasker 4:48:36; M Pawsey 4:48:36; G Gillett 4:48:36; B De Kock 4:48:38; D Mactaggart 4:48:38; S Jackson 4:48:39; C Stokes 4:48:39; T Hill 4:48:40; C Pearce 4:48:41; B Weston 4:48:41; R Hofton 4:48:42; K Ottosson 4:48:42; S Greenwood 4:48:42; R Bhairam 4:48:42; P Perren 4:48:43; A Dean 4:48:43; G Evans 4:48:44; I Bolland 4:48:44; K Smith 4:48:45; K Moss 4:48:45; C French 4:48:45; R Macleod-Smith 4:48:46; K Brotherston 4:48:46; C Anderson 4:48:47; S Lynch 4:48:47; T Schram 4:48:48; F Gysel 4:48:48; A Smith 4:48:49; K Baudains 4:48:50; I Fryer 4:48:50.

18,301 M Quitteller 4:48:51; F Bertello 4:48:51; C Green 4:48:52; M Taylor 4:48:52; S Williams 4:48:53; V Bentzen 4:48:53; F Lynes 4:48:54; D Johnson 4:48:54; R Watson 4:48:54; W Preston 4:48:54; I Robinson 4:48:54; R Jodha 4:48:54; D Faint 4:48:54; R Woodman 4:48:54; D Guegoh 4:48:54; D Greenwood 4:48:55; D Guyah 4:48:55; R Wood 4:48:55; J Wade 4:48:55; A Hamilton 4:48:55; A Barnard 4:48:55; H Nimmo 4:48:56; R Bingham 4:48:57; Y Akmal 4:48:57; L Pender-Cudlip 4:48:58; J Lathom 4:48:58; R Williams 4:48:59; N Underwood 4:49:00; R Malkrab 4:49:01; S Alford 4:49:01; K Champness 4:49:01; L Roberts 4:49:02; L Gilbank 4:49:02; R Ybarra 4:49:02; J McCaffrey 4:49:02; M Warren 4:49:03; M Carter 4:49:03; D Howell 4:49:03; C Kunz 4:49:04; B Cridland 4:49:04; A Koevoets 4:49:04; P Canham 4:49:04; R Lincoln 4:49:04; A Easter 4:49:04; F Gabbiani 4:49:04; N Henderson 4:49:05; S Jolly 4:49:05; L Driscoll 4:49:05; K Stannard 4:49:06; F Barrip 4:49:08; G Pinto 4:49:08; D Pollock 4:49:08; R Thevenet 4:49:08; T Jarman 4:49:08; J James 4:49:09; D Nichols 4:49:09; J Wavy 4:49:10; E Wiersema 4:49:10; W Dawes 4:49:11; R Moore 4:49:11; S Smith 4:49:12; C Penfold 4:49:12; G James 4:49:13; S O'Driscoll 4:49:13; B Cullen 4:49:13; P Smith 4:49:14; N Rogers 4:49:15; R Chapman 4:49:15; J Rainey 4:49:16; J Halstead 4:49:16; R Wheatley 4:49:17; R Medcroft 4:49:17; A Pugh 4:49:17; I Russell 4:49:18; R Hopwood 4:49:18; P Gibby 4:49:19; C Shelley 4:49:20; L Adler 4:49:20; I Baird 4:49:20; M Bridgens 4:49:20; D Yates 4:49:21; D Bithell 4:49:21; A Seddon 4:49:22; G Aujla 4:49:23; T Tribe 4:49:23; E King 4:49:23; L Owen 4:49:23; M Wilson 4:49:23; C Brown 4:49:24; P Bacon 4:49:25; C Willis 4:49:25; N Swindle 4:49:25; J King 4:49:26; T Heindel 4:49:26; S Jagpal 4:49:26; J Lowen 4:49:27; G Beasley 4:49:27; M Price 4:49:27; A Freaney 4:49:28; A Van Hintum 4:49:29.

18,401 G Novick 4:49:30; A Williams 4:49:30; L Smith 4:49:30; D Brady 4:49:30; L Fitzsimons 4:49:30; E Turk 4:49:31; B Currah 4:49:31; S Khan 4:49:31; C Barry 4:49:32; M Hall 4:49:32; G White 4:49:33; B Diston 4:49:34; R Johnson 4:49:34; P Davison 4:49:34; A Shrout 4:49:35; W Kuhn 4:49:35; G Pendergast 4:49:35; C Giffard 4:49:36; S Casey 4:49:36; J Davidson 4:49:36; K Heffer 4:49:36; G Robinson 4:49:36; A Lowis 4:49:36; N Reid 4:49:36; J Walker 4:49:36; J Sutheran 4:49:36; A Brown 4:49:37; N Kitchen 4:49:37; A Mather 4:49:38; I Murphy 4:49:38; K Rennie 4:49:39; N Cross 4:49:39; A Evely 4:49:40; P Hunt 4:49:40; G Adams 4:49:41; A Barker 4:49:42; S Wells 4:49:42; K Beck 4:49:42; J Killengray 4:49:42; P Killick 4:49:43; L Shinow 4:49:43; D Trouve 4:49:43; D Coplin 4:49:43; M Richards 4:49:43; M Priestley 4:49:43; L Ashe 4:49:43; L Gallop 4:49:43; S Taylor 4:49:43; S Barr 4:49:44; J Whatley 4:49:44; G Sharpe 4:49:44; P Chapman-Sheath 4:49:45; J Warner 4:49:45; F Wold 4:49:45; R Stevens 4:49:45; D Faulkner 4:49:46; P Board 4:49:46; M Read 4:49:47; G Ward 4:49:47; P Warren 4:49:47; A Goldman 4:49:48; P Goodricke 4:49:48; A Briggs 4:49:48; R Browne 4:49:48; A Thorne 4:49:48; K Gregson 4:49:48; A Morrison 4:49:48; F Sohuga 4:49:48; R Perry 4:49:49; M Houlder 4:49:49; J Niewiarowski 4:49:49; D Ratcliffe 4:49:49; S Jones 4:49:50; A Bollin 4:49:50; J Martin 4:49:51; J Welfare 4:49:51; I Gibbs 4:49:52; E Murphy 4:49:52; A Evison 4:49:52; A Davies 4:49:52; M Spratt 4:49:52; C Walker 4:49:52; G Johnstone-Mofatt 4:49:52; J Sanguinette 4:49:52; R Smart 4:49:53; P Robinson 4:49:54; G Adams 4:49:54; D Westwood 4:49:54; W Wiles 4:49:54; C Hopkins 4:49:54; A Thomas 4:49:55; M Renault 4:49:55; J Cowell 4:49:55; C Hammond 4:49:55; T Renault 4:49:55; C Parsons 4:49:56; M Gue 4:49:56; C Roberts 4:49:56; J Yates 4:49:57; D Moore 4:49:57.

18,501 T Mellors 4:49:58; M Wainford 4:49:58; J Lewis 4:49:59; B Ruyant 4:49:59; S Lear 4:49:59; S Axelby 4:50:00; J Beecroft 4:50:00; R Mew 4:50:00; M Crowther 4:50:00; K Williams 4:50:01; J Pallas 4:50:01; S Patterson 4:50:02; I Drayson 4:50:02; M Garnham 4:50:02; D Le Ray 4:50:03; C Mitchell 4:50:03; G Leroyer 4:50:03; C Rowton-Lee 4:50:03; B Hughes 4:50:03; D Beutling 4:50:04; K Nessau 4:50:04; R Beisert 4:50:05; B Davies 4:50:05; A Skelton 4:50:05; F Holden 4:50:05; P Adams 4:50:06; M Baker 4:50:06; G Hinds 4:50:06; D Hilson 4:50:06; J Wills 4:50:06; S Linwood 4:50:06; M Linwood 4:50:06; J Chapman 4:50:06; S Hornby 4:50:06; G Rainford 4:50:06; G Shipway 4:50:06; S Ricketts 4:50:06; K Obrien 4:50:07; T Davidson 4:50:07; A Morley 4:50:07; A Helm 4:50:08; G Underdown 4:50:09; B Taylor 4:50:09; A Weavis 4:50:10; R Milton 4:50:10; P Williams 4:50:10; R Raaber 4:50:10; R Smith 4:50:10; K Webb 4:50:10; G Hardy 4:50:10; D Scott 4:50:10; J Perrett 4:50:11; P Snook 4:50:11; R Graham 4:50:11; S Glover 4:50:12; F Ratcliffe 4:50:12; V Augusto 4:50:12; T Wrafter 4:50:13; J Crawley 4:50:13; F Castro 4:50:13; J Holmes 4:50:13; R Augusto 4:50:13; L Linnett 4:50:14; G Sleat 4:50:14; K Waters 4:50:14; P Arrow 4:50:15; N Greatorex 4:50:15; M Buckley 4:50:16; D Holt 4:50:17; P Burborough 4:50:17; B Newton 4:50:17; A Smith 4:50:18; N Laird 4:50:18; K Lawlor 4:50:18; C Elliott 4:50:19; J Pumpfrey 4:50:19; A Bennett 4:50:19; K Spellman 4:50:19; A Dobinson 4:50:20; J Austin 4:50:20; A Speed 4:50:21; J Zucker 4:50:21; N Edson 4:50:21; A Wilcock 4:50:21; D Mallison 4:50:22; G Williams 4:50:22; D Battersby 4:50:22; L Moore 4:50:23; L Oliver 4:50:24; C Brown 4:50:24; C Dine 4:50:24; T McGuinness 4:50:27; R Young 4:50:27; G Syme 4:50:28; K Chan 4:50:28; S Saturnin 4:50:29; T Middleton 4:50:30; S Creasey 4:50:30; K Garnett 4:50:31; A Brook 4:50:32.

18,601 R Noel 4:50:32; B Dixon 4:50:34; F Cubitt 4:50:34; C Camizuli 4:50:34; G Andrews 4:50:35; K Hanson 4:50:36; S Abbs 4:50:36; F Hancock 4:50:36; A Stevens 4:50:37; J Fletcher 4:50:37; K Chapman 4:50:37; M Jewers 4:50:37; C Howie 4:50:37; V Stegling 4:50:37; M Choudhury 4:50:38; N Meston 4:50:38; A Van Straalen 4:50:39; C Fern 4:50:39; A Zoppe 4:50:40; P Shaw 4:50:40; A Duncan 4:50:41; G Hickling 4:50:42; C Judd 4:50:42; D Sutling 4:50:42; S Scott 4:50:42; R Jackson 4:50:42; A Eversden 4:50:43; J Setford 4:50:43; A Hunstone 4:50:43; J Hoffen 4:50:43; L Richards 4:50:43; M Peel 4:50:43; D Wood 4:50:43; N Andrews-Faulkner 4:50:44; J Wright 4:50:45; S Baker 4:50:45; E Fullerton-Beck 4:50:45; S Lewis 4:50:45; J Gorman 4:50:45; R Baker 4:50:45; P Nystrom 4:50:46; K Moon 4:50:46; T Bannister 4:50:46; D Vlacich 4:50:47; J McDonagh 4:50:48; M Power 4:50:49; O Hansen 4:50:49; G Summers 4:50:51; J Root 4:50:52; M Page 4:50:53; M Lorand 4:50:53; H Wells 4:50:53; S Laing 4:50:53; P Finnigan 4:50:54; K Lehmann 4:50:55; S Wilson 4:50:55; A Dickinson 4:50:55; T Foster 4:50:56; L Bradfield 4:50:57; A Bland 4:50:58; P Ralph 4:50:58; D Jones 4:50:58; D Longley 4:50:59; C Campbell 4:51:00; R Miller 4:51:00; R Farrier 4:51:01; V Pawson 4:51:01; A Dore 4:51:01; S Buckeridge 4:51:01; H Amey 4:51:02; F Swinton 4:51:02; A Yates 4:51:03; V Byrne 4:51:03; J Moore 4:51:03; M Page 4:51:03; R Bathie 4:51:03; M Saunders 4:51:03; G Schleitzer 4:51:05; K Walters 4:51:06; F Farrell 4:51:06; L Fallon 4:51:06; B Bruning 4:51:07; T Meyers 4:51:07; F Godfrey 4:51:07; S Bath 4:51:07; A Wechgelaar 4:51:08; K Grant 4:51:08; R Jones 4:51:08; N Lloyd 4:51:09; D Nash 4:51:09; M Brammer 4:51:09; B Leech 4:51:09; G Howard 4:51:10; I Sewell 4:51:11; J Rumary 4:51:11; M Stefani 4:51:12; A Copperwaite 4:51:12; K Ringenson 4:51:12; G Spence 4:51:12; I Holmes 4:51:12.

18,701 P Gilderdale 4:51:12; R Chivers 4:51:12; K O'Keefe 4:51:12; G Cotterill 4:51:12; M Head 4:51:12; C Duburcq 4:51:12; R Suthers 4:51:13; W Hacker 4:51:13; S Lane 4:51:14; A Cooper 4:51:14; P Daw 4:51:15; M Hevey 4:51:15; B Stones 4:51:15; T Askew 4:51:16; D Sidey 4:51:16; D Stewart 4:51:18; K Hancock 4:51:19; R Standing 4:51:19; J Reeder 4:51:19; A Jukes 4:51:20; N Geranio 4:51:21; D Carter 4:51:21; T Butcher 4:51:22; T Wilkins 4:51:22; P Charlton 4:51:22; D Quaggin 4:51:22; M Michaeli 4:51:22; A Bailey 4:51:22; M Dunkley 4:51:22; M Croft 4:51:23; S Etter 4:51:23; S Donnett 4:51:23; J Moss-Smith 4:51:23; J Alward 4:51:23; A Ashcroft 4:51:23; A Commette 4:51:23; P Cresswell 4:51:24; S McMillon 4:51:24; G Ferguson 4:51:24; A Rioust 4:51:26; E Bron 4:51:26; J Hutchings 4:51:27; A Perry 4:51:28; K Hillman 4:51:28; S Dougal 4:51:28; A Owen 4:51:29; A Smith 4:51:29; M Rossor 4:51:30; C Baart-Turk 4:51:30; J Van Loon 4:51:31; G Huntley 4:51:31; P Sickling 4:51:32; J Schwartz 4:51:32; I Baker 4:51:32; L Jones 4:51:32; M Harris 4:51:33; M Urquhart 4:51:34; P Osgood 4:51:34; A Longstaff 4:51:34; F Norton 4:51:34; C Coleman 4:51:35; K Stringer 4:51:35; E Hallifax 4:51:36; D Main 4:51:36; D Edel 4:51:36; P Heaven 4:51:36; S Phipp 4:51:36; T Green 4:51:36; S Smith 4:51:36; R Aberdeen 4:51:37; M Bridger 4:51:37; M Lefebure 4:51:37; P Daines 4:51:38; R Partington 4:51:38; A Singh 4:51:38; S Underdown 4:51:38; A Marshall 4:51:39; J Balcombe 4:51:42; C Forbes 4:51:43; C Jooste 4:51:43; D Hills 4:51:43; L Haldane 4:51:43; P Kimber 4:51:44; T Lawson-Cruttenden 4:51:44; M Edwards 4:51:44; D Willmott 4:51:45; P Hutchins 4:51:45; S Casey 4:51:46; K Reed 4:51:46; N Velody 4:51:46; H White 4:51:46; R Hill 4:51:47; J Edwards 4:51:47; R Winser 4:51:47; W Arts 4:51:47; G Holland 4:51:47; G Edwards 4:51:47; J Winstanley 4:51:48; A Wood 4:51:49; C Curtis 4:51:49.

18,801 M Oltra 4:51:50; D Wentworth 4:51:50; J Maxwell 4:51:50; E Notman 4:51:50; I Wallace 4:51:50; R Lunn 4:51:50; S Sillett 4:51:51; C Griffin 4:51:52; P Jackman 4:51:52; M Martin 4:51:52; R White 4:51:53; G Mendousse 4:51:53; R Griffiths 4:51:54; W Briant 4:51:54; E Wainman 4:51:54; M Royce 4:51:54; K Trunkfield 4:51:55; I Tate 4:51:55; P Williamson 4:51:55; J Browne 4:51:55; S Lant 4:51:55; D Masting 4:51:55; K McDermott 4:51:55; J Richards 4:51:55; G Sewell 4:51:55; P McGinn 4:51:55; K Bushell 4:51:56; K Sharif 4:51:56; G Ayres 4:51:57; M Bone 4:51:59; A Walker 4:52:00; C Stephenson 4:52:00; F Bale 4:52:00; D Martin 4:52:00; P Minhas 4:52:00; J Grace 4:52:01; B Brown 4:52:01; J Clark 4:52:01; N Fitch 4:52:01; F Deacon 4:52:01; P Davis 4:52:01; D Bell 4:52:02; L Heron 4:52:02; A Lucas 4:52:03; J Bates 4:52:06; P Ramage 4:52:07; T Nagoshi 4:52:07; D Dickson 4:52:07; R Salmons 4:52:07; P Walker 4:52:08; J Llibre 4:52:08; S Robertson 4:52:08; J Greenham 4:52:09; D Pattinson 4:52:10; M Wallace 4:52:11; P Moore 4:52:11; S Childs 4:52:12; G Philip 4:52:12; M Saoull 4:52:13; R Pook 4:52:13; T Leefe 4:52:14; S Corbould 4:52:15; P Clements 4:52:15; R Allan 4:52:15; R Barton 4:52:16; P McCune 4:52:16; J Sirett 4:52:16; A Gerstenberg 4:52:17; T Brace 4:52:17; P Dieppe 4:52:18; R Hartshorne 4:52:18; G King 4:52:19; G Dazley 4:52:19; J Thompson 4:52:20; J Stacey 4:52:20; J Nokes 4:52:20; S Chilvers 4:52:21; A Roberts 4:52:21; P Richards 4:52:22; N Dibden 4:52:22; J Rourke 4:52:23; P Young 4:52:23; B Law 4:52:24; E Rowling 4:52:24; D Thompson 4:52:25; R Bromfield 4:52:25; T Gamble 4:52:26; P Searle 4:52:26; C Rossel 4:52:26; M Hibbs 4:52:26; G Islip 4:52:27; G Comerford 4:52:27; C Goddard 4:52:27; M Joiner 4:52:27; A Ross 4:52:27; C Llewerkus 4:52:28; C Gormley 4:52:28; P Cabban 4:52:28; S Lumsden 4:52:28; T Dawes 4:52:29.

18,901 D Mottershead 4:52:30; R Axten 4:52:31; S Slevin 4:52:32; B Llewellyn 4:52:32; D Edelsten 4:52:32; M Wood 4:52:32; P Krause 4:52:33; P Arthur 4:52:33; S Lawson 4:52:34; N Copson 4:52:34; A Leigh 4:52:34; A Ryan 4:52:34; N Fairclough 4:52:36; R Brewster 4:52:36; P Lines 4:52:36; S Thomas 4:52:37; C Naden 4:52:37; S Holland 4:52:37; R Bellamy 4:52:37; B Maloney 4:52:37; P Peters 4:52:38; M Russ 4:52:38; I Turner 4:52:38; M Paterson 4:52:39; W Reinhard 4:52:39; S Marais 4:52:39; A Spouse 4:52:39; G Brady 4:52:39; G Dumler 4:52:39; J Guillemaud 4:52:39; T Dolstra 4:52:39; C Iles 4:52:39; M Iles 4:52:39; D Whittaker 4:52:39; M Cockerham 4:52:39; A Honda 4:52:39; C Ashford 4:52:39; A Maclauchlan 4:52:39; F Macpherson 4:52:39; B Gaskell 4:52:39; E Brow 4:52:39; G Brooks 4:52:41; G Sutherland 4:52:41; V Agababian 4:52:42; P Schnaubelt 4:52:42; A Morton 4:52:42; H McEleney 4:52:42; B Swift 4:52:42; C White 4:52:42; B Cole 4:52:43; L James 4:52:43; S Jamil 4:52:43; C James 4:52:43; M Jackman 4:52:44; I Wynn 4:52:44; P Bailie 4:52:45; M Robinson 4:52:47; J Towse 4:52:47; H Wickenden 4:52:48; N Gubas 4:52:49; K Dardes 4:52:49; N McDavid 4:52:50; E Brown 4:52:50; W Hague 4:52:50; A Angel 4:52:50; K Khaira 4:52:51; M Feeney 4:52:51; L Herriott 4:52:51; S Harrison 4:52:52; I Wolter 4:52:53; B Elder 4:52:54; P Eastabrook 4:52:54; W Talbot 4:52:54; J Barnett 4:52:54; C James 4:52:54; M Davies 4:52:56; R Williams 4:52:56; M Oommar 4:52:56; N Perry 4:52:57; M Paege 4:52:57; W Miller 4:52:57; L Morley 4:52:57; C Balchin 4:52:58; J Horwood 4:52:58; S Fogarty 4:52:58; S Birch 4:52:58; L Voice 4:52:58; M Arnold 4:53:00; R Fujimori 4:53:00; D Dawson 4:53:00; A Semple 4:53:00; M Stein 4:53:00; P Gray 4:53:01; G McFarlane 4:53:01; P Simcock 4:53:01; Y Garward 4:53:01; G Caldwell 4:53:01; D Barnes 4:53:01; J Holden 4:53:02; S Welburn 4:53:03.

19,001 T Stables 4:53:03; E Friedrich 4:53:03; R Reed 4:53:04; M Smith 4:53:04; P Goodwin 4:53:04; C Starritt 4:53:04; D Bubicz 4:53:05; N Carlson 4:53:06; A Craske 4:53:07; T Lewis 4:53:07; A Smeeton 4:53:08; J Smeeton 4:53:08; J Wright 4:53:08; D Vere 4:53:09; P Horan 4:53:10; C Horan 4:53:10; G Giudice 4:53:10; A Ramsbottom 4:53:10; A Peake 4:53:10; F Morris 4:53:12; S Crull 4:53:12; S Boyle 4:53:13; D Prescott 4:53:13; C Weeds 4:53:13; M Lee 4:53:13; K Jagde 4:53:13; T Halls 4:53:13; C Bates 4:53:13; H Yamada 4:53:14; B Mervin 4:53:14; D Whitmore 4:53:15; R Logan 4:53:15; G Dupuis 4:53:15; C Deane 4:53:16; S Stuart 4:53:16; G Merci 4:53:16; G Nightingale 4:53:17; N Ponzoni 4:53:17; M Pipe 4:53:18; S Richeson 4:53:18; J Moore 4:53:18; L Hall 4:53:19; D Holbrook 4:53:19; E Johnson 4:53:19; I Collins 4:53:19; S Wilson 4:53:20; A Bennett 4:53:20; S Lack 4:53:20; D Taylor 4:53:21; J Beecroft 4:53:21; M Rowe 4:53:21; A Holdsworth 4:53:21; D Berry 4:53:21; L Nennedal 4:53:21; L Jones 4:53:21; C Price 4:53:22; R Gibson 4:53:22; P Clarke 4:53:22; V Smith 4:53:22; G Berry 4:53:22; M Reynolds 4:53:22; G McDevitt 4:53:22; P Brown 4:53:22; G Sangster 4:53:22; A Lang 4:53:22; L Deschamps 4:53:23; K Fearn 4:53:23; P Metson 4:53:23; M Atkin 4:53:24; M Bennett 4:53:25; J Page 4:53:25; R Jordan 4:53:25; M Butler 4:53:26; J Smith 4:53:26; G Hedgecock 4:53:26; C Beattie 4:53:26; C Leak 4:53:26; J Crang 4:53:26; T Dillon 4:53:26; P Deary 4:53:27; L Smith 4:53:27; A Hunn 4:53:27; F Williams 4:53:28; J Hawthorn 4:53:28; D McMurtrie 4:53:28; D Ede 4:53:29; C Hyland 4:53:30; G Burks 4:53:30; D Sambhi 4:53:30; M Morales 4:53:30; J Leon 4:53:31; H Kilby 4:53:31; M Ruhdorfer 4:53:31; A Townsend 4:53:31; M Corrick 4:53:32; A Dowden 4:53:32; A Watts 4:53:32; K Williams 4:53:32; B Bishop 4:53:33; J Lewis 4:53:33.

19,101 S Barrett 4:53:34; S McAlister 4:53:35; B Temple 4:53:35; B Didcock 4:53:35; I Grimes 4:53:35; P Hopkins 4:53:36; P Hickman 4:53:36; R Wreschner 4:53:36; L Holmes 4:53:37; J Mair 4:53:37; R Newman 4:53:37; L Mastroddi 4:53:37; S Evans 4:53:37; P Lightowler 4:53:37; P Morris 4:53:37; H Woodward 4:53:37; M Kelf 4:53:37; B Egberink 4:53:37; J Calassou 4:53:38; D Norton 4:53:38; L Targett 4:53:38; R Hawkings 4:53:38; C Geddes 4:53:38; K Anderson 4:53:39; M Canty 4:53:39; J Richards 4:53:39; K Garrett 4:53:40; R Damen 4:53:40; B Cottrell 4:53:40; A Williamson 4:53:40; F Champon 4:53:40; C Salle 4:53:41; D Dew 4:53:41; P Greetham 4:53:41; I Anderson 4:53:42; J Williams 4:53:42; M Porter 4:53:45; R Strickland 4:53:45; T Clancy 4:53:46; N Martin 4:53:46; A Samson 4:53:46; A Heinecke 4:53:47; K Kilkenny 4:53:47; P Harris 4:53:49; E Davidson 4:53:50; G Exton 4:53:50; G Norcott 4:53:51; J Richardson 4:53:51; C Smith 4:53:52; E Lee 4:53:52; R Sadler 4:53:53; S Lewis 4:53:53; R Ledingham 4:53:53; H Dietsch 4:53:54; A Geerts 4:53:54; H Usher 4:53:54; R Stotesbury 4:53:54; J Hancock 4:53:54; D Owen 4:53:54; J Johnston 4:53:54; S Needham 4:53:54; R Needham 4:53:54; G Page 4:53:54; C Charlesworth 4:53:54; C Pinchbeck 4:53:54; O Biswas 4:53:54; G Matthews 4:53:54; R Llewellyn 4:53:54; D Jones 4:53:54; W Ledingham 4:53:55; J Stensland 4:53:55; J Phillips 4:53:55; G Williams 4:53:56; N Tovey 4:53:56; M Edwards 4:53:56; A Cabay 4:53:56; N Thompson-Wells 4:53:56; R Appleby 4:53:56; D Hitchin 4:53:57; A Best 4:53:57; T Forshaw 4:53:57; A Lemin 4:53:57; R Nixon 4:53:58; T Gulliver 4:53:59; M Obrien 4:53:59; A Nash 4:54:00; J Zindar 4:54:00; S Biedul 4:54:00; J Ramadan 4:54:01; D Rodway 4:54:02; R Chacon 4:54:02; W McKeever 4:54:03; S Rowe 4:54:03; A Blackman 4:54:03; D Cawrey 4:54:03; S Wheeler 4:54:04; E Daniels 4:54:05; P Howell 4:54:05; J Bull 4:54:06; K Hayward 4:54:06.

19,201 O Gaynor 4:54:06; P Stuermann 4:54:07; K Havlin 4:54:07; A Hinder 4:54:07; D Bethune 4:54:07; P Thomas 4:54:07; A Smith 4:54:08; N Jacobs 4:54:08; A Hartley 4:54:08; S Platts 4:54:08; G McLauchlan 4:54:09; M Noel 4:54:09; C Barrows 4:54:09; P White 4:54:09; S Williams 4:54:11; A James 4:54:11; A Roberts 4:54:12; A Mitchell 4:54:12; S Elson 4:54:12; G Murray 4:54:13; S Hinds 4:54:14; B Rogers 4:54:15; M Lee 4:54:15; J Daniels 4:54:15; M Willis 4:54:16; D Morgan 4:54:17; L Evans 4:54:17; N Westphal 4:54:17; Z Marek 4:54:18; J Rees 4:54:18; B Steffens 4:54:19; S Shiell 4:54:19; P Brownlow 4:54:19; L Shepherd 4:54:19; G Ballantyne 4:54:19; R Davies 4:54:19; L Oliver 4:54:20; C Sexton 4:54:20; R Wilson 4:54:21; M Pennington 4:54:21; C Phillips 4:54:21; A Moore 4:54:21; J Ashcroft 4:54:21; L Calder 4:54:22; F Esposito 4:54:22; J Schuit 4:54:22; M Turner 4:54:22; P Rumkee 4:54:23; A Marshall 4:54:23; J Comyn 4:54:24; C Poynter 4:54:24; C Evans 4:54:24; K Osborne 4:54:25; F Stedham 4:54:25; M Ponting 4:54:25; W Tennant 4:54:26; W Barlow 4:54:26; A Hassan 4:54:27; P Fitzpatrick 4:54:27; F Rutherford 4:54:27; L Terry 4:54:28; G Parry 4:54:28; S Faulkner 4:54:28; L Hodgkiss 4:54:28; M Healley 4:54:29; T Towers 4:54:30; P Mayhew 4:54:30; B Singleton 4:54:30; D Hughes 4:54:31; G Haywood 4:54:31; C Brown 4:54:31; U Bockle 4:54:31; A Johnston 4:54:31; I Dalien 4:54:32; G Evans 4:54:32; D Tinsley 4:54:33; R Tibbott 4:54:34; P Coughlin 4:54:34; R Barrett 4:54:34; B Scullion 4:54:35; P Bowden 4:54:35; W Hillier 4:54:36; V Bowes 4:54:37; D Creeper 4:54:37; C Armstrong 4:54:37; D Stewart 4:54:38; J Bowles 4:54:38; M Norris 4:54:38; C Dijkstra 4:54:39; B James 4:54:39; G Wallis 4:54:39; C Thornton 4:54:40; T Hindson 4:54:41; F Rougier 4:54:41; R Pasola 4:54:41; T Waterhouse 4:54:41; N Mannay 4:54:42; D Farman 4:54:42; J Southgate 4:54:42; S Welch 4:54:43.

19,301 P Gardiner 4:54:43; M Parkin 4:54:43; A McHugh 4:54:44; A Monk 4:54:44; J Amos 4:54:44; M Lyons 4:54:44; N Jenkins 4:54:44; B Hegarty 4:54:45; J Backes 4:54:45; L Nike 4:54:46; R Phillips 4:54:46; R Jones 4:54:46; M Lewis 4:54:47; R Page 4:54:47; S Beasley 4:54:47; E Newton 4:54:47; P Evans 4:54:47; P Scrivener 4:54:48; P Beasley 4:54:50; M Bolla 4:54:50; S O Connor 4:54:51; N Kawamoto 4:54:51; P Montague 4:54:51; T Baugh 4:54:51; B Taylor 4:54:51; V Militano 4:54:51; C Ellis 4:54:52; S Forey 4:54:54; J Lloyd 4:54:54; M Kilroy 4:54:55; J Lee 4:54:55; L Johnson 4:54:56; C Eames 4:54:56; E Heyman 4:54:56; G Mackay 4:54:57; J Clarke 4:54:57; D Richier 4:54:58; N King 4:54:58; T Osada 4:54:58; S Wheeler 4:54:58; G Lewis 4:54:59; A Watson 4:55:00; T Linton 4:55:00; B Ceccone 4:55:01; K Potter 4:55:02; A Clark 4:55:02; W Hamp 4:55:02; P Clapp 4:55:02; C Parker 4:55:02; R Curtis 4:55:03; A Devlin 4:55:03; L Macaulay 4:55:03; M Hicks 4:55:03; B Bennett 4:55:04; J Hughes 4:55:04; P Everny 4:55:04; B Allman 4:55:04; T McCafferty 4:55:05; P Austin 4:55:05; R Thomas 4:55:05; N Stundon 4:55:06; T Kavanagh 4:55:06; C Hardwick 4:55:06; W Brampton 4:55:07; J Pashley 4:55:07; R Eppey 4:55:07; S Brunton 4:55:08; J Smith 4:55:08; S McLeod 4:55:08; T Sood 4:55:08; R Tutt 4:55:09; N Joss 4:55:10; A Johnson 4:55:10; B Thomas 4:55:10; G Jones 4:55:10; R Van Twembeke 4:55:10; B Pineau 4:55:10; T Wilkes 4:55:12; L Latham 4:55:13; I Bell 4:55:13; J Brobin 4:55:13; H Taylor 4:55:14; C Dagg 4:55:14; J Oates 4:55:14; R Eaden 4:55:14; S Commissaris 4:55:14; W Klaas 4:55:15; M Brown 4:55:15; B Hales 4:55:15; J Hassett 4:55:15; H Ohagan 4:55:15; A Martin 4:55:15; A Miggiano 4:55:16; S Dallas 4:55:16; D Giffin 4:55:16; C Wright 4:55:16; L Armstrong 4:55:17; N Patel 4:55:17; K Lee 4:55:17; K Segering 4:55:17.

19,401 M Hurst 4:55:17; L Sharp-Woods 4:55:17; P Patel 4:55:17; K Trotter 4:55:18; A Cambell 4:55:18; K Lawrence 4:55:18; C Bull 4:55:19; M Hunter 4:55:19; M Cooper 4:55:21; P O'Connor 4:55:21; D Wagstaff 4:55:21; G Denyer 4:55:21; J Newton 4:55:21; J Fisher-Mack 4:55:22; B Rodgers 4:55:22; M Davis 4:55:23; P Bell 4:55:23; M Banks 4:55:23; S Proudlove 4:55:23; S Howell 4:55:23; E Barrier 4:55:24; C Van Tonder 4:55:24; M Pike 4:55:25; P Brees 4:55:25; J Rogers 4:55:25; M Bryant 4:55:25; M Lindsay 4:55:26; N Watson 4:55:26; R Burford 4:55:26; C Miller 4:55:26; F Brenton 4:55:26; G Meyerhoff 4:55:27; V Howell 4:55:27; G Laundon 4:55:27; L North 4:55:27; P Brewster 4:55:28; W Butler 4:55:28; J Parkinson 4:55:29; A Strange 4:55:30; K Rue 4:55:31; S Bryan 4:55:31; P Kelly 4:55:31; B Tims 4:55:32; H Hill 4:55:32; H Raffo 4:55:32; A Wheeler 4:55:33; J Couteau 4:55:33; R Looman 4:55:33; P Wright 4:55:33; A Vitali 4:55:33; L Blake 4:55:34; S Crowley 4:55:35; P Cole 4:55:35; D Stearn 4:55:35; R Wald 4:55:36; N Worthington 4:55:37; F Maginess 4:55:37; J Watson 4:55:37; T O'Brien 4:55:38; C Ferris 4:55:39; A Barron 4:55:39; P Coben 4:55:39; G Sickling 4:55:39; B Wiltshire 4:55:39; P Doyle 4:55:39; R Moore 4:55:39; D Chinien 4:55:39; M Williams 4:55:39; R Baldwin 4:55:39; S Campion 4:55:40; A Wright 4:55:40; S Knott 4:55:40; T Imossi 4:55:40; O Ringwood 4:55:40; N Strong 4:55:41; P Coupland 4:55:41; R Hay 4:55:41; B Porter 4:55:41; C Smith 4:55:41; T Kawada 4:55:41; T Green 4:55:42; O Fahlen 4:55:42; A Gellett 4:55:42; J Szyndler 4:55:43; E Roberts 4:55:43; J Appelquist 4:55:44; C Healey 4:55:44; A Wilson 4:55:45; M Caswell 4:55:45; W Trinder 4:55:46; J Ford 4:55:46; R Connolly 4:55:47; A Morris 4:55:47; S Gaskin 4:55:47; V Shearer 4:55:47; I Fallon 4:55:48; J Kelly 4:55:48; A Miller 4:55:48; C Pleass 4:55:49; G Ferns 4:55:49.

19,501 J Middleton 4:55:49; J Powles 4:55:49; G Joubin 4:55:49; G Cooke 4:55:49; M Crawford 4:55:49; T Ohara 4:55:50; S Westerman 4:55:50; T Heard 4:55:51; R Doyle 4:55:51; D Winston 4:55:51; J Hansford 4:55:52; J Oppen 4:55:52; O Key 4:55:52; A Newland 4:55:52; G Pearson 4:55:53; L Daphne 4:55:53; J Hampson 4:55:57; D Law 4:55:57; B Garrety 4:55:59; P Carter 4:56:00; R Philip 4:56:00; G Spencer 4:56:00; F Archer 4:56:00; G Thomas 4:56:01; A Perkins 4:56:01; K Morris 4:56:01; C Hazell 4:56:03; N Lambert 4:56:03; N Steeples 4:56:04; C Coigneau 4:56:05; R Funke 4:56:05; G Norwood 4:56:05; S Wallis 4:56:05; M White 4:56:06; N Townsend 4:56:06; M Davidson 4:56:06; J Marland 4:56:06; K Burns 4:56:07; M Parry 4:56:08; S McGhee 4:56:08; J Ahara 4:56:09; J Polczyk-Przybyla 4:56:09; P Pont 4:56:09; D Bennett 4:56:09; M Freeman 4:56:09; M Stephens 4:56:09; R Druckes 4:56:10; D Payne 4:56:10; S Lauder 4:56:10; C O'Hagan 4:56:11; A Bircher 4:56:11; G Nombreuse 4:56:11; P Bacon 4:56:12; G Brodie 4:56:12; S Muddle 4:56:12; M Coelho 4:56:12; E Ruocco 4:56:12; D Scott 4:56:12; G Anstett 4:56:12; B Kyte 4:56:13; A Smith 4:56:13; M Maury 4:56:13; P Ragsdell 4:56:14; S Cooper 4:56:14; P Lawrenson 4:56:14; W Wilson 4:56:14; B Knight 4:56:14; D Bradley 4:56:14; J Penman 4:56:14; W Hofmans 4:56:14; C Boer 4:56:14; R Whittaker 4:56:14; J Inacio 4:56:14; R Andrews 4:56:15; P Thynne 4:56:15; J Crittenden 4:56:15; D Bevan 4:56:17; J Dietrich 4:56:18; K Cook 4:56:18; S Smith 4:56:19; B Bowden 4:56:19; M Grey 4:56:21; M Waygood 4:56:21; N Hofer 4:56:22; G King 4:56:22; A Langner 4:56:22; V Vuorinen 4:56:22; H Lien 4:56:23; T Orford 4:56:23; G Parker 4:56:24; I Garmonsway 4:56:25; E Myers 4:56:25; S Whitcombe 4:56:26; G Morgan 4:56:27; S Duder 4:56:27; R Rouchy 4:56:28; C Russell-Clark 4:56:29; W McKibbin 4:56:29; N Copping 4:56:29; A Caudwell 4:56:30.

19,601 K Caudwell 4:56:30; H Dobson 4:56:31; I Reynolds 4:56:31; W Drury 4:56:31; G Boyd 4:56:31; M Scott 4:56:31; A Holland 4:56:31; W Hurley 4:56:32; G Brock 4:56:32; C Moricet 4:56:32; D Howorth 4:56:33; J Bojczuk 4:56:32; J Platt 4:56:32; P Du Toit 4:56:32; G Davies 4:56:32; M Gilson 4:56:33; J Bulstrode 4:56:34; E Draper 4:56:34; B McKay 4:56:35; L Roberts 4:56:35; E Franklin 4:56:36; N Tibble 4:56:36; J Hart 4:56:36; G Roberts 4:56:36; I Huskisson 4:56:36; G Jennings 4:56:36; R Gontier 4:56:36; M Wilkinson 4:56:36; B Stuart-Cole 4:56:36; R Salisbury-Jones 4:56:37; R Chinnock 4:56:37; J Storey 4:56:38; T Lu 4:56:38; L Aldridge 4:56:38; S Shanley 4:56:38; S Gokhale 4:56:39; S Barker 4:56:39; G Singh 4:56:39; M Cooman 4:56:39; S Veale 4:56:40; M Hampson 4:56:40; C Galvin 4:56:40; S Maclean 4:56:40; A Davies 4:56:40; K Fearon Howard 4:56:40; D McDonagh 4:56:41; P Taylor 4:56:41; W Preissner 4:56:42; P Paine 4:56:42; S Cook 4:56:42; S Jocelyn 4:56:43; R Inglis 4:56:44; S Boreham 4:56:44; D Taylor 4:56:44; J Kennedy 4:56:45; W Simpson 4:56:45; T Tindall 4:56:45; C Wade 4:56:47; M McCarthy 4:56:47; J Bellamy 4:56:48; J Moseley 4:56:48; S Carr 4:56:51; M Brittin 4:56:51; G Barnard 4:56:52; M Collins 4:56:52; M Iaconis 4:56:52; R Shepherd 4:56:52; A Duckstein 4:56:52; I Leatherdale 4:56:52; L Pabiot 4:56:52; W Holloway 4:56:52; S Banks 4:56:52; G Powell 4:56:53; N Watts 4:56:53; C Hayward 4:56:54; A Cleaver 4:56:54; J Adams 4:56:54; S Tremblrth 4:56:54; I Aaron 4:56:54; J Riley Chubb 4:56:55; M Kirk 4:56:55; G Lilley 4:56:56; P Chivers 4:56:56; D Johnson 4:56:56; A Chivers 4:56:56; J Bullock 4:56:56; C Pearce 4:56:57; H Szyszko 4:56:57; M Long 4:56:58; A Faint 4:56:58; M Aimable 4:56:58; S Takahashi 4:56:59; S Stilwell 4:56:59; S Scrutton 4:57:00; C Halpin 4:57:01; A Johnston 4:57:01; A Gosling 4:57:02; K Fielding 4:57:02; L Bowen 4:57:02; P Goodman 4:57:02.

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Athlete resolves dispute with BAF to concentrate on Olympic Games

Jackson relents on threatened boycott

By David Powell, athletics correspondent

COLIN JACKSON'S feud with the British Athletic Federation (BAF) may have been more a marathon than a sprint, but it edged towards the finish line yesterday when he withdrew his threat to boycott some of Britain's top meetings this summer. Jackson, the 110 metres hurdles world record-holder, also made himself available to compete in the European Cup while doing a convincing impression of an athlete who believes his Olympic dream is about to be fulfilled.

He was in ebullient mood, mainly because his winter work has taken him to a level of fitness as high, if not higher, than in any April past, but partly because no longer is he embroiled in a dispute. Malcolm Arnold, the BAF head coach and Jackson's personal trainer, whose loyalties were divided by the controversy, spoke of his "great joy" that the worst of the differences had been resolved.

"I was very anxious that the latter years of Colin's career did not end under a cloud," Arnold said. "I want to see him compete in this country and go on to win the Olympic title, which I think he will do. He is in very good shape."

Arnold may not have been with Jackson while the athlete spent most of the winter abroad, but he is impressed with his present physical and mental condition. What makes him so sure Jackson is on the verge of a towering season? "It is something you smell," Arnold said. A personal best 32.8sec for 300 metres in training and a clean lift in the gym of 140kg are strong fragrances.

All trace of anger has left Jackson, except his animosity towards Peter Radford, the BAF executive chairman, who rebuked him last year after Jackson had fled the AAA championships in mid-competition to race in Italy. Was there anything Radford could do to restore relations? "Hell, no," Jackson said. "Me and him are dead and buried."

Jackson, who won the world championship in 1993, was unable to defend it last year as a result of his split with the BAF. He was neither physically nor mentally ready to produce proof of fitness when BAF required it. He did, however, admit yesterday that he "could have done more to calm things down" by telling Arnold he was leaving for Italy instead of vanishing.

When Jackson, 29, appears at the Welsh Games on May 25, which he was promoting in Cardiff yesterday, it will be his first race in Britain for ten months, his first since the stand-off began. He was always going to compete in Cardiff — 'Nuff Respect, the management agency he runs with Linford Christie, is promoting the event — but the Bupa Games in Gateshead on June 30, which he has now agreed to compete in, was among those he was planning to boycott.

It took a convincing performance from Peter Hier, the BAF's assistant promotions director, to clinch Jackson's change of heart. Hier, who is recovering in hospital from a heart attack last week, went to Australia, where Jackson was racing and training, to put BAF's case. "He did a good job," Jackson said. "Otherwise, I don't think I would have been running."

Jackson was runner-up in the 1988 Olympic Games and, as favourite to win, finished seventh in 1992, blaming injury. He was unbeaten in 1994 and his downfall last year, he said, had been in part due to others taking his success for granted. "People around me were getting complacent about my performances," he said.

That Jackson is in high spirits was evident when he was asked whether victory in Atlanta would confirm him as the greatest sprint hurdler in history. "That's not for me to say, that's for you guys to say," he replied. "But I would like you to say it."

HUW EVANS

Jackson, back on British soil after a winter overseas, flies the flag for the Welsh Games at Cardiff yesterday

Ballesteros goes out in sympathy

From Mel Webb in Valencia

THE CONTINUING anguish of José Maria Olazábal drew compassionate words from his golfing soul brother, Severiano Ballesteros, as he prepared for the Turespaña Masters that starts at El Saler today. Ballesteros is not 100 per cent fit — he has a wrist injury — but at least there are reasonable hopes that he will quickly be back to physical fitness. The prognosis for Olazábal is nowhere near as good.

Increasingly crippling arthritis in both feet has been with Olazábal for nearly two years and he has not played competitive golf for seven months. He was due to have played here, but he had to withdraw a short time ago when it became obvious that he would be unable to withstand the rigours of playing 72 holes of golf around the beautiful and testing El Saler course, which has drawn seven of the Ryder Cup team of last year to its rolling links.

Ballesteros was full of sympathy for his younger friend. "It's very sad," he said. "We miss him on tour and it is such a pity that he is not here. I am not worried about his prospects for the Ryder Cup, for that is a long way away, but it is true that, when he does come back, he will take a little while to get back to normal."

Ballesteros knows what he is talking about. He took a five-month sabbatical from the game after the Ryder Cup match last autumn and it was not until he played all four rounds in the recent Masters that he showed a semblance of form; even at Augusta he was second to last of those who played four rounds. This is only his third appearance of the season on the PGA European Tour, having missed the cut in Dubai and finished 67th in Morocco.

The pain that is afflicting him now is the result of swinging a club about four times heavier than usual in his hotel room to help with his rhythm. He shrugged off the injury yesterday. "It is just a small inflammation, I think," he said. "I have been swinging the club for a long time now and I think I just overdid it a bit."

His remedy, rough and ready though it was, was to put the matter, or, at least, the wrist, on ice. He was scheduled to pay a visit to the tour physiotherapy unit and was resigned to another evening with a frozen hand. "It's nothing serious," he said lightly. Would that his younger compatriot could be so sanguine.

Hall plans triumphant Curtis Cup swansong

JULIE HALL, the British champion and one of the best amateur golfers of her generation, will retire from championship golf on Saturday June 22, the day the Curtis Cup finishes at Killarney (Patricia Davies writes).

"I'm now on the other side of the fence," Hall, who is 29 and started her new job as the Ladies' Golf Union's tournament secretary this week, said. "When do you stop? I've done it for ten years and I thought I might as well go out at the top."

It will be Hall's fifth consecutive appearance in the biennial match pitting Great Britain and Ireland against the United States. She was on the winning teams of 1988 and 1992 and, two years ago played in the match in Chattanooga that was halved. Lisa Educate (formerly Walton), Mhairi McKay and Janice Moodie were also on that team and Hall feels that experience could give the home side an edge.

Those making their debuts are Lisa Dermott, the Welsh champion, Alison Rose, a Scotland international and a member of the Commonwealth team last year, and the England internationals, Karen Stupples and Elaine Ratcliffe.

TEAM: L Dermott (Royal Liverpool Ladies'), L Educate (Calcot Park), J Hall (Felixstowe Ferry), M McKay (Turnberry), J Moodie (Windyhill), E Ratcliffe (Sandiway), A Rose (Stirling), K Stupples (Royal Cinque Ports). Reserves (in order): E R Power (Kilkenny), F Brown (Heswall), E Duggleby (Malton & Norton), R Hudson (Wheatley). Captain: I Butler (Elm Park). Vice-captain: G Cadden (Troon Ladies').

No surprise as McRae names his Saints for Wembley

By Christopher Irvine

SHAUN McRAE was a member of Brian Smith's Sydney schoolboys team 20 years ago, so the St Helens coach is familiar with his Bradford counterpart's habit of pulling the wool over opponents' eyes. Yesterday, therefore, McRae accused his fellow Australian of "living in Disneyland" if he expected him to take seriously the Bradford starting line-up announced for the rugby League Silk Cut Challenge Cup final on Saturday.

Smith included Jon Hamer in Bradford's nominated XIII for Wembley, announced on Tuesday, even though the prop forward has not figured in the first team since January. "I don't take any notice of it. To suggest that Hamer will play is ridiculous," McRae said. "Has Brian Smith ever picked a side a few days before a game and that side has actually taken the field?"

Smith was undaunted. "We have named our team. Like any coach, I retain the right that, if I feel on the day it is necessary to make a change, I'll certainly do it. We'll just wait and see," he said.

What Australians know as ducks and drakes — the game whereby a team is named and the other goes along with it — was not indulged in by McRae, who sprang no surprises in retaining Danny Arnold on the right wing and restoring Anthony Sullivan after injury to the left flank, which means Alan Hunte must settle for a substitute's place at best.

Although St Helens are unbeaten in the Super League going into Wembley, McRae was unhappy with the manner of the last two wins scraped against Bradford and Halifax. "There are some players in the starting line-up who can consider themselves extremely lucky. They have been spoken to about their recent performances," he said.

McRae singled out Andy Leathem, 19, for praise. The young prop has established himself in the first team this season due to a prodigious work-rate. "We have the benefit now of an individual [video] taping system via computer and I can't find the last time that Andy made a mistake in a game," McRae said.

ST HELENS: S Prescott, D Arnold, S Gibbs, P Newlove, A Sullivan; K Hammond, R Goulding, A Perelini, K Cunningham, A Leathem, C Joynt, S Booth, A Northey. Substitutes (from): A Hunte, T Martyn, V Matautia, C Morley, I Pickavance

IN BRIEF

Muster has easy start to defence of title

THOMAS MUSTER enjoyed an easy start to the defence of his Monte Carlo Open tennis title yesterday, defeating Tomas Carbonell, of Spain, the winner of the recent Casablanca clay-court tournament, 7-5, 6-4 in only 80 minutes.

Goran Ivanisevic and Yevgeny Kafelnikov, seeded five and six respectively, suffered surprise first-round defeats in straight sets. Ivanisevic was beaten 6-2, 6-2 by Magnus Gustafsson, of Sweden, while Kafelnikov complained of feeling unwell after his 6-4, 6-3 defeat by Cedric Pioline, of France.

European Storm

Ice hockey: Manchester Storm will be Britain's representatives in a new European league that will eventually replace the European Cup. Manchester will be one of 20 teams from 12 countries that will play in five groups, the group winners and three best runners-up qualifying for the quarter-finals.

Boardman boost

Cycling: Chris Boardman, an Olympic gold medal-winner in 1992, has been granted automatic selection, along with the defending champion, Graeme Obree, for the world pursuit championship in Manchester this summer. The international cycling union decided that, as host nation, Britain would be entitled to field a second rider without having to qualify via the World Cup.

Britain relegated

Tennis: Britain were relegated from group one of the Europe-Africa zone of the Fed Cup at La Manga, Spain, yesterday, despite beating Slovenia 2-1 in their last pool match. Britain's fate was sealed when Belorussia gained a winning 2-0 lead over Russia.

Sherry invitation

Golf: Gordon Sherry, who makes his professional debut in the Italian Open next week, has been allocated a place in the Volvo PGA championship at Wentworth next month. Sherry, 22, ended his amateur career at the Masters a fortnight ago, where he missed the halfway cut.

♣♠ SHEEHAN on BRIDGE ♥♦

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

Dealer South **Love all** **IMP's**

North:
♠ J 6 5
♥ 3 2
♦ A 8 7 6 3 2
♣ 6 5

West:
♠ 9 4
♥ A J 8 7
♦ Q 9
♣ K Q 9 8 7

East:
♠ 10 8 7
♥ 5
♦ K J 10 4
♣ A J 10 3 2

South:
♠ A K Q 3 2
♥ K Q 10 9 6 4
♦ 5
♣ 4

W	N	E	S
1 D	Pass	1 NT	2 D
Pass	3 D	Pass	4 H
All pass			

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: king of clubs

The bizarre auction is explained by the fact that East-West were playing the Precision Club. A feature of Strong Club systems is that weakish hands with clubs are awkward to bid. Many Precision pairs play that an opening bid of One Diamond is balanced, or has either minor as the principal suit. That explains why East responded 1NT - he couldn't afford to raise diamonds in case West was short, and he couldn't bid clubs as his methods required him to have a stronger hand to bid at the two level. South bid Two Diamonds over 1NT, thinking that would show both majors. North obtusely interpreted it as diamonds, and to avoid any further misunderstandings South jumped to Four Hearts.

How should declarer play after two rounds of clubs? He counts his tricks - five in spades, at least four in hearts and one in diamonds. But if he continues with the king of hearts, West ducks, wins the second round and plays another club. Now declarer is down to the same number of trumps as West, and as West has a fifth club he can force out declarer's last trump when he wins the jack of hearts. That leaves West with a total of three trump tricks.

The solution is to play the ten of hearts at trick three. If West wins, dummy can ruff a club continuation. And if West plays low, declarer can continue with the king of hearts, and when he ruffs the next club he plays off the queen of hearts and just runs spades.

Two British teams occupy a medal position. The juniors are third and the mixed team lead their category with an impressive score.

STANDINGS. **Open:** equal 1, Finland, Italy 91; 3, France 86; 10, GB 71. **Women:** 1, Austria 116; 2, Belgium 99; 3, France 83; 6, GB 70. **Junior:** 1, Italy 105; 2, Denmark 93; equal 3, GB, Israel 80. **Mixed:** 1, GB 85; 2, Portugal 69.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

WHANGDOODLE
a. A cane
b. A bird
c. A thingummyjig

MENDACILOQUENT
a. Eloquent
b. Seeding by spores
c. Untruthful

CICURATE
a. A Church of Ireland curate
b. Circumcised
c. To tame

FULSOME
a. Excessive
b. Enthusiastic
c. More than half

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
chess correspondent

Kramnik leads

Vladimir Kramnik, the young Russian grandmaster, has maintained his grip on the lead after 20 games of the blindfold/rapid chess tournament in Monte Carlo. Scores after 20 rounds are as follows: Kramnik 14.5, Anand 13, Ivanchuk 12½ and Kamsky 9½. Other notable contenders further down the field in this $100,000 tournament include Anatoly Karpov, Judith Polgar and Alexei Shirov.

In the following game, a crucial victory with Black which was instrumental in maintaining Kramnik's lead, the Russian outplays the former world championship challenger in a simplified position without queens.

White: Viswanathan Anand

Black: Vladimir Kramnik

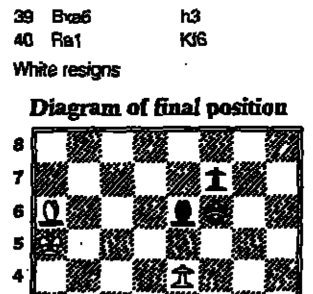
Melody Amber, Monaco, 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	d6
6	Bg5	e6
7	Qd2	a6
8	0-0-0	h6
9	Be3	Be7
10	f3	Nxd4
11	Bxd4	b5
12	Kb1	Rb8
13	Bxf6	Bxf6
14	Qxd6	Qxd6
15	Rxd6	Ke7
16	Rd1	Bxc3
17	bxc3	e5
18	Kb2	Be6
19	Bd3	Rhc8
20	Ra1	Rc5
21	Rhb1	Bd7
22	Bf1	Rbc8
23	c4	Be6
24	cxb5	Rxc2+
25	Ka3	axb5
26	Rxb5	Bxa2
27	Rxe5+	Be6
28	Ra5	Rb8
29	Ra7+	Kf6
30	Ka4	g5
31	g3	Rxh2
32	Ra3	Rf2
33	Bb5	h5
34	Ra6	Kg7
35	Ka5	h4
36	gxh4	gxh4
37	Rb6	Ra8+
38	Ra6	Rxa6+
39	Bxa6	h3
40	Ra1	Kf6

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Internet access

Those wishing to follow all the games of the Melody Amber blindfold/rapid play tournament in Monaco via the world wide web should access the following website:

http://www.tasc.nl/amber5/index.html

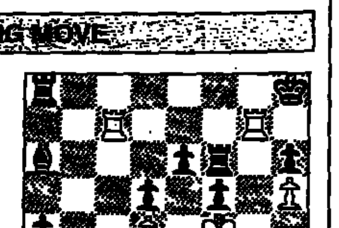
☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is from the game Alekhine - Yates, London 1922. Doubled rooks on the seventh rank can be an enormously powerful weapon. Here Alekhine wins quickly despite being a piece in arrears. Can you see how?

Solution, page 46



LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

071-782 7344

COMPANY NOTICES

GCE
German City Estates N.V.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of
German City Estates N.V.
to be held on Friday 10 May 1996 at 11 o'clock a.m. at Hotel de l'Europe,
Nieuwe Doelenstraat 2-8, Amsterdam

Holders of bearer shares as well as usufructuaries having the right to vote, who wish to attend the meeting, are required to deposit their proof of ownership at ING Bank N.V., Herengracht 580, 1017 CT Amsterdam, or at Wesselius Effectenbank B.V., Nieuwe Doelenstraat 10, 1012 CP Amsterdam, or at the office of the Company, Johannes Vermeerplein 5, 1071 Amsterdam, not later than 3 May 1996.

Shareholders who wish to be represented by power of attorney are required to deposit a written power of attorney at the office of the Company or with the banks mentioned above, not later than 7 May 1996. Proxy forms can be obtained from the Company.

The agenda for the meeting and copies of the 1995 annual accounts and the 1995 annual report can be obtained free of charge as of today by shareholders and others entitled to attend the meeting at the office of the Company or at the banks mentioned above.

Amsterdam, 24 April 1996
The Board of Directors

CANADIAN PACIFIC LIMITED
(Incorporated in Canada)
ONTARIO & QUEBEC
RAILWAY COMPANY
5 PER CENT
DEBENTURE STOCK
6 PER CENT COMMON STOCK

In preparation for the payment of the half-yearly interest payable on June 1 next, the debenture stock transfer books will be closed at 3.30 p.m. on May 1 and will be re-opened on June 2.

The half-yearly interest on the common stock will be paid on June 1 to holders of record on May 1.

D.R. Kasel
Deputy Secretary
62-65 Trafalgar Square,
London WC2N 5DY.
April 19 1996.

PUBLIC NOTICES

BEEDEN otherwise BEEDUN, PETER BEEDEN otherwise PETER BEEDUN late of Coventry, West Midlands died there on 25 December 1994
(Estate about £43,000)
BEET, GEORGE BEET late of Halifax, West Yorkshire died there on 18 July 1995
(Estate about £15,000)
CURRELL nee WOOD, HILDA MAUD CURRELL nee WOOD WIDOW late of Harlow, Essex died there on 2 April 1993
(Estate about £29,000)
DOUSE, WILLIAM ALBERT JAMES DOUSE otherwise WILLIAM DOUSE late of Whitechapel, London E1 died there on 16 April 1995
(Estate about £10,980)
DURNAM, JAMES DURNAN late of Stockton, Cleveland died there on 8 November 1992
(Estate about £14,000)
GOODRIDGE, PETER JOHN MICHAEL GOODRIDGE late of Wolverhampton died there 12 October 1995
(Estate about £4,800)
GORDON, FLORA ELIZABETH MAY GORDON SPINSTER late of Brampton, Cumbria died there on 31 October 1995
(Estate about £20,000)
HEARNE, DAVID IAN THOMAS HEARNE otherwise IAN HEARNE late of Bow, London E3 died there on 6 April 1994
(Estate about £86,000)
JACQUIN MARGUERITE ALPHONSINE JACQUIN otherwise MARGUERITE JACQUIN SPINSTER late of Shepherds Bush, London W12 died there on 7 December 1995
(Estate about £30,000)
JOHNSON nee TICKNER, DOROTHY VIOLET JOHNSON nee TICKNER WIDOW late of Fleet, Hampshire died there on 25 October 1991
(Estate about £6,000)
MAYCOCK nee WILSON, SARAH ANNE MAYCOCK nee WILSON WIDOW late of Northampton died there on 22 August 1973
(Estate about £20,000)
O'DONOVAN, KATHLEEN TERESA O'DONOVAN SPINSTER late of Ealing, London W5 died there on 3 March 1995
(Estate about £5,800)
PORTER, ALEXANDER PORTER late of Newcastle upon Lyme, Staffordshire died there on 19 August 1990
(Estate about £6,000)
PRICE, FRANK MORTON PRICE late of Chester, Cheshire died there on or about 20 November 1995
(Estate about £40,000)
PROSSER nee HARCOURT, ROSE EMELDA PROSSER otherwise ROSE PROSSER nee HARCOURT WIDOW late of Battersea, London SW11 died there on 7 March 1995
(Estate about £40,000)
RAMSHAW, ARTHUR RAMSHAW late of Newton Aycliffe, Durham died there on 27 October 1993
(Estate about £5,000)
ROBERTS, JOHN WILLIAM ROBERTS late of Wrexham, Clwyd died there on 7 March 1994
(Estate about £8,000)
ROTHERHAM, OLIVE ROTHERHAM SPINSTER late of Kendal, Cumbria died there on 22 February 1995
(Estate about £6,000)
ROUSE, FRANK PATRICK ROUSE late of Wimbledon, London SW19 died at Roehampton, London SW15 on 21 September 1995
(Estate about £35,000)
SMITH STANLEY MERTON SMITH otherwise STANLEY MARTIN SMITH late of Watford, Hertfordshire died there on 4 October 1994
(Estate about £6,000)
SONES, GEORGE EDWARD SONES late of New Eltham, London SE9 died at Sidcup, Kent on 14 September 1995
(Estate about £5,000)
STERN, MALCOLM JEFFREY STERN otherwise MALCOLM GEOFFREY STERN late of Deal, Kent died at Dover, Kent on 26 May 1995
(Estate about £36,000)
TILSLEY, THOMAS EDWIN TILSLEY late of Crewe, Cheshire died there on 24 October 1994
(Estate about £7,000)
VALENTINE, JOHN LIONEL VALENTINE late of Hounslow, Middlesex died there on 19 December 1992
(Estate about £23,000)
WALKER otherwise RAW, MARY EDNA BROWN WALKER otherwise MARY EDNA BROWN RAW otherwise MARY EDNA RAW SPINSTER late of Leven, North Humberside died at Beverley, North Humberside on 28 August 1995
(Estate about £22,000)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

GILBERT, GEORGE EDWIN GILBERT late of Bromley-by-Bow, London E3 died at Bromley-by-Bow, London E3 on 14 October 1995
(Estate about £25,000)

The widow and kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

LEGAL NOTICES

In the matter of Rochdale Development Limited (formerly Team Development Limited)
and
In the matter of
the Insolvency Act 1986

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at 100 Drayton Park London N5 1ND on 7 May 1996 at 11.15 am for the purposes mentioned in sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Statements of claim, and proxy forms if applicable, must be lodged at PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP United Kingdom not later than 12 noon on the 3 May 1996.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at the offices of KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP United Kingdom on 2 & 3 May 1996.

Dated 22 April 1996
By order of the board
TJ Linton - Director

In the matter of Glyptobuild Limited (formerly Team Design & Build Limited)
and
in the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at 100 Drayton Park London N5 1ND on 7 May 1996 at 2.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Statements of claim, and proxy forms if applicable, must be lodged at PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP United Kingdom not later than 12 noon on the 3 May 1996.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at the offices of KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP United Kingdom on 2 & 3 May 1996.

Dated 22 April 1996
By order of the board
TJ Linton - Director

LEGAL NOTICES

In the matter of Glyptohealth Limited (formerly Transcare Health Limited)
and
in the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at 100 Drayton Park London N5 1ND on 7 May 1996 at 11.45 am for the purposes mentioned in sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Statements of claim, and proxy forms if applicable, must be lodged at PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP United Kingdom not later than 12 noon on the 2 & 3 May 1996.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at the offices of KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP United Kingdom on 2 & 3 May 1996.

Dated 22 April 1996
By order of the board
TJ Linton - Director

In the matter of Glyptowest Limited (formerly Team Management (Western) Limited
and
in the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London WC1B 5BB on 8 May 1996 at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Statements of claim, and proxy forms if applicable, must be lodged at PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP United Kingdom not later than 12 noon on the 7 May 1996.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at the offices of KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP United Kingdom on 3 & 7 May 1996.

Dated 22 April 1996
By order of the board
GM Richardson - Director

LEGAL NOTICES

In the matter of Glyptotech Plc (formerly Team Services Plc)
and
in the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London WC1B 5BB on 8 May 1996 at 2.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Statements of claim, and proxy forms if applicable, must be lodged at PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP United Kingdom not later than 12 noon on the 7 May 1996.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at the offices of KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP United Kingdom on 3 & 7 May 1996.

Dated 22 April 1996
By order of the board
GM Richardson - Director

In the matter of Rochdale Lee Limited
and
in the matter of
the Insolvency Act 1986

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at 100 Drayton Park London N5 1ND on 7 May 1996 at 10.15 am for the purposes mentioned in sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Statements of claim, and proxy forms if applicable, must be lodged at PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP United Kingdom not later than 12 noon on the 3 May 1996.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected free of charge, at the offices of KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP United Kingdom on 2 & 3 May 1996.

Dated 22 April 1996
By order of the board
TJ Linton - Director

In the matter of Rochdale Churchgate Limited
and
in the matter of
the Insolvency Act 1986

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at 100 Drayton Park London N5 1ND on 7 May 1996 at 10.45 am for the purposes mentioned in sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Statements of claim, and proxy forms if applicable, must be lodged at PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP United Kingdom not later than 12 noon on the 3 May 1996.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at the offices of KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP United Kingdom on 2 & 3 May 1996.

Dated 22 April 1996
By order of the board
TJ Linton - Director

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
DEANCOURT HOLDINGS LTD
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that Alan David Kenningham of Haines Watts, 4-8 Tabernacle Street, London, EC2A 4LU was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company on 12 April 1996 by The Creditors.

Dated 23 April 1996.
Alan David Kenningham,
Liquidator.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY
& PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344 OR FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

Watford live to fight again

Swindon provide McMahon with his finest moment

By Our Sports Staff

STEVE McMAHON won just about everything football has to offer during his playing days with Everton and Liverpool, and yet beating Chesterfield 3-1 on Tuesday night was, he claimed, his finest moment. Better than winning the FA Cup, better than winning the league, better than winning the double. Instead of Anfield or Wembley in early May, read Saltergate, April 23, 1996. The pinnacle of a successful career.

It may sound, at best, improbable, but McMahon, now the manager of Swindon Town, meant it. Beating Chesterfield wrapped up the Endsleigh Insurance League second division championship that had been studiously packaged and parcelled during the course of a season in which Swindon — McMahon's Swindon — had been the outstanding team in their division. Relegated less than 12 months earlier, they had bounced back in style, securing promotion at Blackpool on Saturday before putting the icing on the cake in midweek.

"This is easily the best thing I have ever experienced as a player or a manager," McMahon said yesterday. "It's been three days of sheer bliss. Not many teams win promotion and the championship. We got what we deserved. This is a very special moment and we are certainly going to enjoy it."

"Enjoying it" began as soon as the final whistle had blown at Saltergate, goals from Cowe, Thorne and Allison interrupting Chesterfield's path into the play-offs, despite Hewitt's effort on the half-hour. Who goes up automatically with Swindon has yet to be decided, with Oxford United closing on Blackpool, who are second, thanks to a 6-0 drubbing of Shewsbury Town. Massey, Rush, Beauchamp and Murphy scored one apiece, Moody two. Notts County are also play-off bound, but their 2-1 defeat of Brighton was notable more for the fact that it condemned their visitors to relegation.

The first division, however, was hardly going to allow one of its junior partners to steal the limelight completely. Since August last year, it has constantly surprised and Tuesday night was no exception. Had Watford lost at home to Grimsby Town, they would have been relegated. They won 6-3 and the great escape, masterminded by Graham Taylor and the sorcerer's apprentice, Luther Blissett, may be on.

There were two hat-tricks, one from Ramage, the other from Connolly, with fruitless replies from Groves, Livingstone and Walker. Luton Town look doomed, however. They lost 1-0 at Port Vale and saw Graeme Tomlinson, making his debut on loan from Manchester United, carried off with a broken leg.

England Under-21s took on Croatia Under-21s with a severely depleted team and therefore their 1-0 defeat was not too disappointing. Vucko scored the only goal; Rufus, of Charlton Athletic, came closest to replying, hitting the bar with a header.

Only the Aberdeen striker, Scott Booth, appeared to emerge with any credit from Scotland B's embarrassing 3-0 defeat by Denmark B in Nykobing Falster.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, welcomed the fact that Booth, on as a second-half substitute, "looked to be running freely" after a long spell struggling to overcome a groin injury — signalling, perhaps, that a place awaits in the squad for the European championship finals — but he was less than impressed with some other performances. Larsen, with two goals, and Andersen ensured the Scots ended the night empty-handed.

Sugar turns sour over 'irresponsible' clubs

By Our Sports Staff

ALAN SUGAR has a reputation for being something of a maverick among the men who control football's leading clubs. Thus it was yesterday that the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, at the same time as announcing a rights issue scheme to raise £10.9 million to build a new north stand at White Hart Lane, criticised what he called the "irresponsible" spending of his FA Carling Premiership rivals.

Sugar refuses to follow clubs who pay hugely inflated fees or wages for players, and believes that the domestic transfer market has to change as a consequence of the Bosman ruling. To that end, Tottenham have wiped almost £7 million off the transfer value of their players.

At present, normal transfers within Britain command a fee whether the player is on or out of contract and the trend towards foreign players is expected to continue. "It is our view, the view of our auditors and of anybody else with half a brain that the transfer system as we know it is on its last legs," Sugar said. "Fortunately, we are protected at Tottenham in that most of our superstar players are covered by long-term contracts.

"Spending in some places pre-Bosman was, to say the least, irresponsible. The next bit of logic is that a manager will say to his chairman, 'I've got the opportunity of employing Carlos Kickaball from Madrid and there is no transfer fee. But I'm going to pay him £1.5 million a year.' The new wave of free transfers could cause a new level of salary construction."

Rights issue, page 27

Perkins cannot hide his anguish after failing in the Australian Olympic trials. Photograph: Mark Baker

Perkins flounders in Olympic tide

By Craig Lord

AUSTRALIAN swimming was in a state of shock yesterday after the failure of Kieren Perkins to make the Olympic team for the 400 metres freestyle, the event in which he is world champion and world record-holder. His demise represented the low-water mark in three days of trials — and many tribulations — at the pool that will be used for the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

Perkins, 22, who failed to make the final of the 200 metres freestyle on Sunday, yesterday qualified for the final of the 400 metres in last place. In the final, he struggled to stay in contention with the leaders early on before staging a mild recovery that proved too little too late.

Perkins, known as the Ironman of the Pool and rated as the leading distance freestyler in the world, finished third behind Daniel Kowalski (3min 50.60sec) and Malcolm Allen (3:51.60), his time of 3:52.52 being almost nine seconds slower than his world record. Paul Palmer, of Lincoln, won the British trials last month in 3:51.25.

Appearing calm and composed at the post-race press conference, and even cracking jokes, Perkins proferred no other explanation for his form than a change of lifestyle. He said 1995 had been a quiet year in the pool, with no major world event, he had recently moved in with his girlfriend and his job as a television reporter had taken up more of his time in the past year.

John Carew, his coach, said that Perkins's stroke rhythm was "all to pot". He hoped improvements could be made before trials for Perkins's other event, the 1,500 metres, in which he is Olympic champion and leads the world by a large margin, are held on Saturday.

To add insult to injured Australian pride, Samantha Riley, the world champion at 100 and 200 metres breaststroke, was beaten for the second time in a week. Having already lost the 100 metres to Helen Denman, whose parents hail from Britain, Riley swam six seconds outside her best in the 200 metres and was beaten by Nadine Neumann. Second place in each event was, however, enough to secure her qualification for Atlanta.

Neumann, 20, broke her neck when diving into a pool six weeks before the Olympic trials of 1992, and spent two years out of the sport. The injury to her vertebrae was not detected until three days after the accident, when she complained that her neck hurt when she swallowed.

Riley, 23, tested positive for a stimulant contained in a prescription headache pill given to her by Scott Volkers, her coach, last December. She was let off with a warning, while Volkers is appealing against a two-year suspension from international coaching. She said that had not disturbed her training; her poor form was something of a mystery to her. One commentator at the trials said: "Everyone is going round in shock at the results."

All Blacks lock is cleared of assault by judge

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

IAN JONES, the All Blacks lock, was acquitted yesterday of an assault during a provincial match after the first court case of its kind in New Zealand. The case against Jones, 29, who has played nearly 200 first-class games without any slur on his self-discipline, was said to be "riddled with contradictions".

It arose after a game last season between North Harbour, Jones's team, and Counties, whose flanker, Junior Paramore, left the field with an eye injury and later complained of an assault. Witnesses alleged that they saw Jones using his foot in a kicking motion but there was also evidence that the injury occurred in a heavy tackle.

Judge Patrick Treston told the Pukekohe District Court that most of the evidence was "irreconcilable" and accepted Jones's explanation that the eye injury was caused when the player's elbow came in contact with Paramore's face.

The Pan Pacific tournament, involving eight countries and due to begin this weekend, has been postponed until next year. The delay has been caused by the failure of the international underwriters to meet their commitment; however, the likes of Japan, Hong Kong, the United States and Canada hope that some of this year's fixtures can be played.

Simon Mason, the Ireland full back, will miss Orrell's final league game of the season, against Bristol on Saturday. Mason has an ankle injury and his place goes to Steve Taberner in what will be Bristol's penultimate game; success at Orrell and at West Hartlepool on May 5 could steer them to sixth place in the first division after their flirtation with relegation.

Bristol welcome back Simon Shaw, the England A lock, who plays for their second XV against Orrell after a leg injury which threatened his playing career. Shaw suffered a double dislocation of the ankle, a fractured fibia and extensive ligament damage playing for Bristol against Transvaal in November.

Scottish players benefit from trust

By Mark Souster

TONY STANGER and James Craig are at opposite ends of their rugby careers. Stanger, who will be 28 next month, is a veteran of 38 internationals, while Craig, the youngest son of the former Celtic and Scotland football international, Jim Craig, is established at under-19 level. The two do, however, have something in common; both are at college, Stanger having given up his job last year to become a mature student reading sports science, while Craig is studying leisure management; yesterday they were the first recipients of bursaries worth up to £3,000 a year from the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU).

The grants are part of an initiative designed to assist players to balance the financial demands of further education and the development of their professional and sporting careers, and ultimately to keep them in Scotland. The money has been made available through the SRU's educational trust, set up as an offshoot of the union's careers opportunities for players working party, itself a fledgeling body which has already helped to find a job for Derek Stark, the former Scotland wing, who last week joined Melrose. The aim is to provide long-term careers and not stop-gap sinecures.

As with most things in Scotland, the scheme is the brainchild of Jim Telfer, the SRU's director of rugby, who, as a former headmaster, is aware of the value of education and the importance of parallel careers to rugby, at least in the short term. The trust, which it is hoped will be granted charitable status, wants to raise £50,000 initially to meet expected demand from up to a dozen players over the next three years, while the SRU has contributed another £25,000. The SRU sees much of the money being used to pay for personal tuition for players whose courses are interrupted by the demands of rugby.

The need for financial support and career counselling, for instance in liaising with universities in rescheduling exams which clash with tours, emerged from questionnaires completed by players in various national squads last year.

☐ Peter Wright, the Scotland prop, confirmed yesterday that he will be joining Melrose, the league champions, next season. He is believed to have signed a three-year contract worth £90,000.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Minnesota 8 Boston 6; Chicago 6 Texas 5; Oakland 9 Milwaukee 6; Cleveland 9 Baltimore 8; Kansas City 5 New York 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 6 Pittsburgh 2, Los Angeles 3 Atlanta 2; San Diego 7 Florida 2; Colorado 4 Chicago 3; Houston 8 San Francisco 4; Montreal 12 St Louis 11; New York 8 Cincinnati 6 (in 10inns).

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Second day of three: Canterbury: Lancashire 431-6 dec (P C McKeown 175, N T Wood 140) and 48-0; Kent 325-8 dec (J H Baldock 80, S Willis 60, E J Standford 52) Final day of three: Knowle and Dorridge: Derbyshire 300-3 dec (T J G O'Gorman 150 not out, M R May 52) and 34-0 dec. Warwickshire 47-0 dec and 72 (P Aldred 6-17) Derbyshire won by 215 runs. Warwickshire 1pt, Derbyshire 20pts.

SCHOOLS MATCH: Colston's 52; Clifton 53-0.

FOOTBALL

International match

CZECH REP	(0) 2	IRELAND	(0) 0
Frydek 61 Kuka 69		8,118	

(at Evzen Rosicky Stadium, Prague)

Tuesday's late results

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL: England 0 Croatia 1.

B INTERNATIONAL: Denmark 3 Scotland 0.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Port Vale 1 Luton 0; Watford 6 Grimsby 3. Second division: Burnley 0 Bristol Rovers 1; Carlisle 2 York 0; Chesterfield 1 Swindon 3; Notts County 2 Brighton 1; Oxford Utd 6 Shrewsbury 0; Rotherham 2 Stockport 0; Walsall 3 Hull 0. Third division: Chester 1 Northampton 0; Hereford 0 Darlington 1; Mansfield 2 Torquay 0; Scunthorpe 2 Doncaster 2.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Altrincham 1 Stalybridge 0; Runcorn 3 Northwich 4; Welling 1 Kettering 0.

UEFA UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying game, second leg: England 3 Scotland 0 (6-0 agg).

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury 1 Molesey 1; Boreham Wood 4 Hendon 0; Hayes 2 Harrow 1; Bishop's Stortford 3 Chertsey 1; Yeading 3 Walton and Hersham 0. First division: Berkhamsted 1 Uxbridge 3; Oxford City 1 Staines 1; Wembley 0 Leyton Pennant 1. Second division: Chalfont St Peter 3 Hungerford 0; Hemel Hempstead 1 Egham 0; Leatherhead 1 Witham 0; Saffron Walden 1 Canvey Island 4; Wivenhoe 0 Hampton 2. Third division: Aveley 0 Horsham 2; Clapton 2 Harefield 1. Postponed: Epsom and Ewell v Kingsbury.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Chorley 0 Accrington Stanley 0; Emley 4 Colwyn Bay 1; Leek 2 Boston 2; Marine 3 Winsford 1; Buxton 0 Barrow 0; Frickley 2 Spennymoor 3. First division: Congleton 1 Fleetwood 0; Gretna 0 Great Harwood 2; Radcliffe 1 Eastwood Town 1; Whitley Bay 2 Lincoln United 0.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Burton 1 Gravesend and Northfleet 2; Hastings 2 Sudbury 1; Dorchester 2 Gresley 1; Ilkeston 1 Chelmsford 1. Midland division: Evesham 1 Bury Town 2; Moor Green 1 Grantham 0; Hinckley Town 2 Solihull 3; Leicester United 1 R C Warwick 1; Sutton Coldfield 1 Dudley Town 1; Rothwell 2 Nuneaton 0; Tamworth 6 Buckingham Town 0. Southern division: Cinderford 2 Forest Green 1; Clevedon 4 Ashford 2; Fisher 93 0 Sittingbourne 2.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Caersws 1 Conwy 3; Newtown 3 Briton Ferry 0. League Cup: Semi-finals, second legs: Barry 2 Ebbw Vale 2 (Ebbw Vale win on away goals); Connah's Quay 2 Caernarfon 2 (Connah's Quay win on away goals).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Portsmouth 1 Brighton 0; Tottenham 2 West Ham 2. Second division: Plymouth 6 Bath 0.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Everton 1 Leeds 1. Second division: Coventry 3 Sunderland 3.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Ford United 2 Great Wakering 3; Stansted 2 Bowers 4.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Swindon Supermarine 2 Endsleigh 0.

BANK'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Lichfield 1 Walsall Wood FC 2; Tividale FC 3 Cradley 0.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Cork 2 Shelbourne 1.

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Semi-final: Second replays: Bohemians 1 Patrick's Ath 2.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Dunston Federation 0 Tow Law 0.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol Manor Farm 0 Bridport 2; Paulton 1 Calne 1

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Felixstowe P and T 0 Diss 3; Halstead 4 Hadleigh 1; Lowestoft 1 Sudbury 1; Newmarket 2 Harwich and Parkeston 2; Walton 1 Fakenham 2; Wisbech 5 Cornard 1; Wroxham 1 Great Yarmouth 0

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Flixton 2 Burscough 0; Kidsgrove 2 Clitheroe 0

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold 1 Brigg 2; Hucknall 1 Ashfield 1; Liversedge 2 Thackley 3; Maltby MW 0 Armthorpe Welfare 2

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Chile 3 Australia 0 (at Antofagasta).

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL: Yugoslavia 1 Macedonia 3.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League under-19 Trophy: Final: Essex 1 Northumberland 1 (aet). Trophy shared Fuji Film Trophy: Final, first leg: Bury 1 Walsall 0.

HOCKEY

ATLANTA: Women's international tournament: United States 1 Great Britain 3; Great Britain 1 Spain 0.

ICE HOCKEY

VIENNA: World championship: Pool A: United States 4 Germany 2; Canada 4 Austria 0; Germany 5 Canada 1. Pool B: Italy 4 Norway 0; Czech Rep 4 Finland 2.

RUGBY UNION

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: First division: Pontypridd 75 Newbridge 5.

SUPER 12 TOURNAMENT: Transvaal 55 Canterbury 23 (in Johannesburg).

SCHOOLS MATCH: Shropshire senior final: Adams GS 53 New College, Telford 0

TENNIS

LA MANGA: Fed Cup: Europe-Africa zone: Group one: Pool A: Great Britain 2 Slovenia 1 (Great Britain names first: S Smith lost to B Mulej 6-3, 6-4; C Wood bt T Krizan 7-5, 6-2; Smith and Wood bt Krizan and T Jazernik 6-1, 7-5; Belorussia 2 Russia 1.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	3	2	1	7	2	2
Belorussia	3	2	1	4	5	2
Slovenia	3	1	2	4	5	1
Britain	3	1	2	3	6	1

Britain relegated to Europe/Africa group two

MONTE CARLO: Men's tournament: First round: A Agassi (US) bt J Siemerink (Holl) 6-2, 6-3; C Moya (Sp) bt O Camporese (It) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2; J Sánchez (Sp) bt P Haarhuis (Holl) 6-2, 6-3; T Carbonell (Sp) bt F Dewulf (Bel) 0-6, 6-3, 6-1; M Rios (Chile) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-4, 5-7, 6-4. Second round: T Muster (Austria) bt T Carbonell (Sp) 7-5, 6-4; C Pioline (Fr) bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 6-4, 6-3; S Schalken (Holl) bt T Enqvist (Swe) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; F Santoro (Fr) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 7-5, 1-6, 7-6; M Gustafsson (Swe) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 6-2, 6-2; A Medvedev (Ukr) bt M Philippoussis (Aus) 6-0, 6-2; A Costa (Sp) bt H Gumy (Arg) 6-7, 6-1, 6-4; F Mantilla (Sp) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 7-5, 6-2; B Becker (Germ) bt D Rikl (Cz) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3

SEOUL: Men's tournament: Second round: B Black (Zim) w/o S Lareau (Can) scr; G Rusedski (GB) bt J Stark (US) 1-6, 7-6, 6-3; S Matsuoka (Japan) bt A Radulescu (Ger) 6-4, 6-1; T Henman (GB) bt T Johansson (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; G Pozzi (It) bt J Tarango (US) 6-3, 7-5; J Kroslak (Slovakia) bt J Renzenbrink (Ger) 6-2, 6-3; M Damm (Cz) bt J Grabb (US) 6-3, 6-0; O Ogorodov (Uzb) bt K Carlsen (Den) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

EDINBURGH: Spring satellite tournament (GB unless stated): Women: First round: K Kamer (Ger) bt M Ball (Aus) 6-3, 6-4; R Mawdsley (Aus) bt E Lebescond (Fr) 6-4, 6-2; M Marina (Russ) bt M Vosseberg (Holl) 6-3, 6-0; K Balekova (Cz) bt T Pavlov (Yug) 6-1, 6-1; J Pullin bt T King (NZ) 6-2, 6-3; J Ward bt J Choudhury 6-3, 6-2; V Davies bt N Payne 6-3, 6-2; A Tordoff bt A Tricerri (Switz) 6-2, 6-1; N Berkan (Isr) bt J Osman 6-2, 6-1. Second round: E Bond bt J Dawson 6-1, 6-3; S-A Siddall bt C Kremer (Ger) 6-2, 6-2; K Kamer (Ger) bt J Wood 7-5, 6-3; K Balekova (Cz) bt J Pullin 6-2, 6-4.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £3,241.65, 23 £58.05, 22 £5.85, 21 £1.85 Four draws £3.80. Ten homes £2,102.65. Five aways £58 15.

VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £788.30, 23 £27.95, 22 £3.05. Ten homes £32.40 (paid on nine correct) Five aways void (stakes may be used in payment of clients' next entries).

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £221.65, 23 £2.55, 22 £0.36 (three dividends only). Top 10 points pool (no max 23pts winners): 22pts £156.45, 21 £35.85. Easy six £32.00 Four draws £3.00 Four aways £8.00. Eight homes £18.40 Lucky numbers 32 19 38 1 36 12.

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Cheltenham drops early fixtures to ease toll on course

By Julian Muscat

THE Cheltenham executive has abandoned two fixtures in October amid concern that an early start to the season is taking a heavy toll on the racing surface. The development comes just six days after a Jockey Club report into the equine casualties at the March festival exonerated the state of the track from any blame.

A group of trainers, headed by David Nicholson, criticised the poor covering of grass at the start of the Festival. But, according to the report, they stopped short of suggesting it had contributed to a record ten fatalities last month.

Philip Arkwright, clerk of the course at Cheltenham, maintained yesterday that the decision to reallocate the fixtures was unrelated to the fatalities. "It is not an issue because the report absolved the ground from any blame," he said. However, he accepted that the early October meetings had compromised the quality of the surface.

"To race in early October we have to put serious water on the course up to six weeks in advance," he said. "This is detrimental to good turf husbandry. Our decision is geared towards having the course in the best shape possible for the important [March] part of the season."

Cheltenham has three courses but significant strips of the Park course, which is used in early October, are common to the Old and New courses, which are used at the Festival. "Year after year, one realises that one is forcing the ground — you could almost say abusing it — to get it ready that early," Arkwright said.

The hazards of watering racecourses in the autumn were graphically illustrated at Cheltenham last year. A wet winter, coupled with the extensive watering policy in October, forced the executive to change the Gold Cup course at the eleventh hour.

Runners were ushered around the second-last fence because the going was deemed unfit. "The last two fences of the Gold Cup form part of the Park course, which was heavily watered the previous October," Arkwright recalled. "The bad ground was directly attributable to the autumn watering policy."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MELT THE CLOUDS
(3.40 Beverley)

Next best: Mybotye
(3.10 Beverley)

Conditions before this year's Festival could not have made a greater contrast. The lack of winter rain left the subsoil dry, which, according to the report, meant that "hurdles were stiff until they had been jumped once and may have contributed to heavier falls."

For all Cheltenham's efforts to divorce the high equine casualties from yesterday's announcement, its dropping of two early fixtures amounted to tacit recognition that the ground has not been at its best for the Festival. Nothing should be allowed to compromise this showcase event. In that respect, the move is a positive development — albeit one that should have been made after the previous year's controversy.

Controversy also ruled at the Jockey Club disciplinary committee's inquiry into events at Ludlow on April 3. Having dolled off a fence when Lawrence Squire lay injured on the landing side, groundsmen started dismantling the warning signs directing riders around the obstacle after Squire was safely loaded into an ambulance.

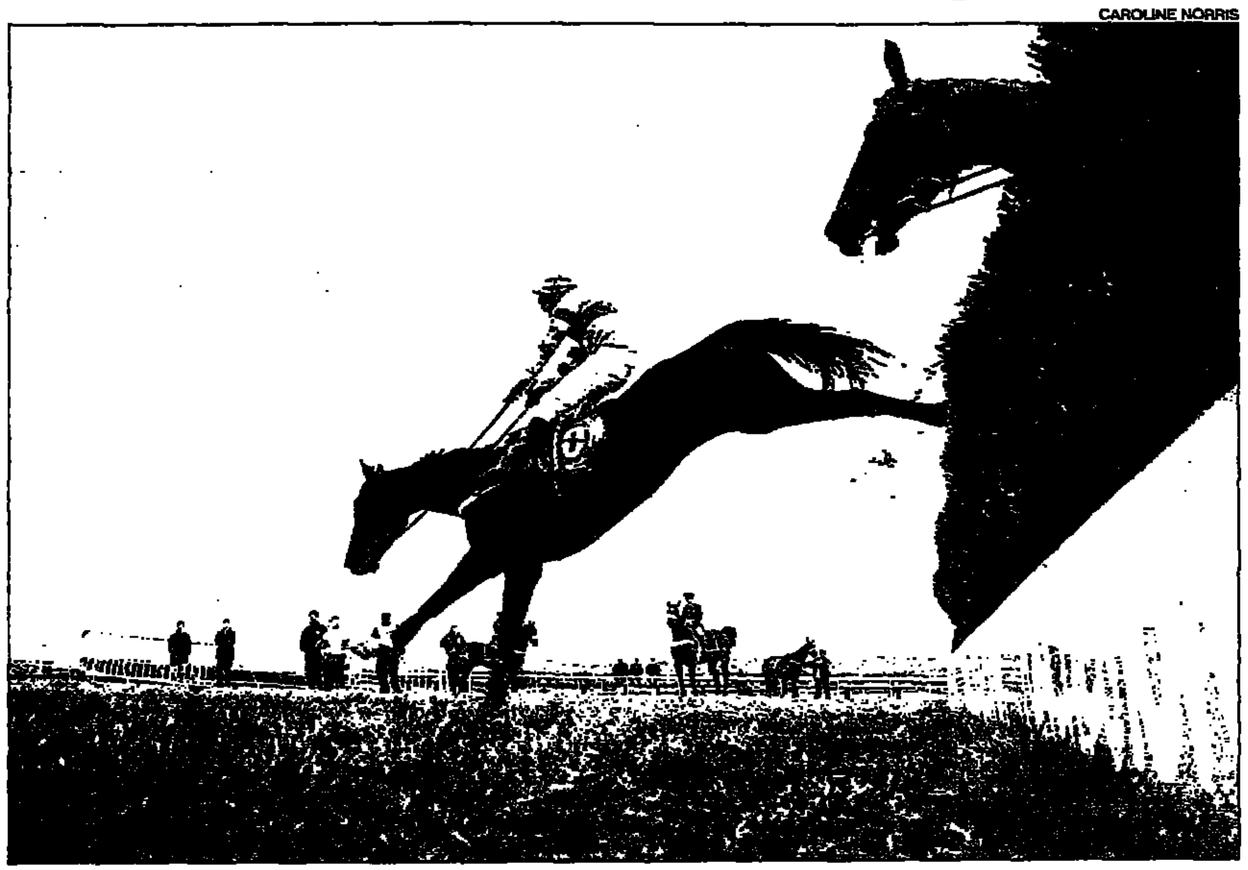
But they failed to complete the job before the field approached it on the second circuit. In the confusion, West Quay jumped the fence en route to second place but the other runners bypassed it. The result was allowed to stand yesterday even though the committee ruled that the fence should not have been jumped.

Given the committee's decision, West Quay should have been disqualified from second. That may seem harsh but such measures would go a long way towards avoiding a similar shambles in the future. It was a golden opportunity for the Jockey Club to underline that the employment of incompetent groundstaff by racecourses is inexcusable. With that in mind, it was lenient in the extreme that both the Ludlow executive and its clerk of the course, Bob Davies, escaped without censure.

Rural charm of races before graces

From Alan Lee
at Punchestown

CAROLINE NORRIS



Billygoat Gruff clears the last on his way to victory in the Heineken Gold Cup at Punchestown yesterday

THEY called it Ladies' Day at Punchestown yesterday but nobody seemed to notice. There were a few showy hats amid the record 18,000 crowd and a quorum was raised for the Best Dressed Lady competition. But any comparison with Ascot and the social season ended there. This is an egalitarian event, where people come to watch rather than to be seen. Proper sport, in fact, and the Irish are rightly proud of it.

Sean Connery was here. So too was Ronnie Wood of the Rolling Stones. Yet they attracted no more attention than the unshaven man with a stick who habitually stands near the parade ring with a handful of assorted ballpens, calling "boiros" as a half-hearted sales pitch.

A delegation from Cheltenham attended yesterday and Edward Gillespie, the managing director, remarked: "We spent 15 years trying to make Cheltenham like an Irish racecourse and, here, they've spent the last five trying to be like us."

In some ways, they have succeeded. It is a constantly expanding operation, a stamina test of eight races a day, and there were so many people here yesterday that the usual Cheltenham dilemma of whether to go to the bar, the bookmakers or the parade ring between races, because there is neither time nor space to do all three, was much in evidence.

The racing, too, was of Cheltenham quality — intensely competitive and often unpredictable, although there was something inevitable about Tony McCoy dropping in from his domination of the British season and winning on his first ride of the meeting. This was a sign of better to come for the away team and in mid-afternoon David Nicholson sent out the first British-trained winner.

Billygoat Gruff's length victory over Twin Rainbow in the £60,000 Heineken Gold Cup was no surprise to Nicholson. He reported that the horse, bought as a foal for only £700 by his wife, Dinah, who also named him, was "wrong" when he fell at Cheltenham last time. But the result was gained only after a chaotic race in which five of the 20 runners fell at the fifth fence from home and only seven completed the course.

If, however, the Irish like to think of these three days as their replica of Cheltenham, right down to the rolling hills and the nightly revelries, there are differences which must remain. Punchestown is a big event in a tiny place and it is the country setting and the rustic infrastructure that bestow its charm.

The course buildings are ancient, almost shabby. The judge's box is reached up a rusting spiral staircase and the press box is a portacabin next to the weighing room. Nobody complains because this is rural Ireland. This is how it ought to be.

Certainly, the jockeys want nothing to change. Mark Dwyer, born in Dublin before making his name in England, has been coming here for years and said: "It is second only to the Cheltenham Festival for me, yet much more relaxed. The pressure is not the same. People come for the racing but they are also here to have fun. It's just a wonderful week."

Endorsement came from an unlikely source — the police caravan, where the duty sergeant cheerfully reported that their presence was "a duty rather than a necessity". There was only one arrest on the first day — a pickpocketing charge — and the sergeant regarded my query about crowd disorder with a look of amused astonishment.

"There are no fights, no trouble here. It is a pleasure to be present. But we do notice the difference between Flat and jumping crowds. The Flat people come and go quickly, but the jumping crowd come early and hang around late." Had he but known it, the sergeant was offering a suitable summary of the appeal of weeks such as this.

BEVERLEY

THUNDERER

2.10 Wee Hope
2.40 Montecristo
3.10 MYBOTYE (nap)
3.40 Misky Bay
4.10 Eskimo Nel
4.40 Pine Needle

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.40 Misky Bay. 4.10 Darling Clover. 4.40 PINE NEEDLE (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.10 FULFORD MAIDEN STAKES (£3,795: 5f) (13 runners)

101	(7)		AUTOBERRY (Mrs E Berry) C Fairhurst 3-9-0	L Charnock	–
102	(3)	0	GLORIA IMPERATOR 17 (G Darley Partners) A Mulholland 3-9-0	M McAndrew	–
103	(9)	60	GOLBORNE LAD 16 (V) (Mrs S Allen) J Balding 3-9-0	J Edmunds (7)	–
104	(6)	3-0	MAGIC MAIL 33 (G Coull) J Eustace 3-9-0	R Cochrane	89
105	(1)	3-	MAJOR QUALITY 174 (Mrs M Watt) J Fanshawe 3-9-0	D Harrison	92
106	(11)	623-	WEE HOPE 217 (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Stoute 3-9-0	D McKeown	96
107	(12)	322-	DARK DEED 225 (K Abdulla) B Hills 3-8-9	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
108	(8)	06-	FARIDA SECONDA 208 (Miss H Monteith) J Spearing 3-8-9	S Drowne (3)	52
109	(2)	0-	FERNWAY 224 (R Whitaker) R Whitaker 3-8-9	A Culhane	–
110	(5)		GORMIRE (J Hetherton) J Hetherton 3-8-9	N Kennedy	–
111	(4)	6	MADRINA 23 (Skyline Racing) J Berry 3-8-9	J Carroll	–
112	(10)	56-6	PRINCESS ERISIO 17 (J Graham) B McMahon 3-8-9	G Carter	65
113	(13)	3-34	SOLO SYMPHONY 17 (Mrs B Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-9	J Reid	85

BETTING: 6-4 Dark Deed, 9-4 Wee Hope, 6-1 Major Quality, 7-1 Solo Symphony, 12-1 Magic Mail, 14-1 Madrina, 16-1 others.

1995: FAIRY WIND 3-8-8 L Dettori (11-4) N Callaghan 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

MAGIC MAIL 3½l 3rd of 5 to Music Gold in maiden at York (5f, good to firm) on penultimate start. MAJOR QUALITY 3½l 3rd of 20 to Miss Riviera in maiden at Doncaster (6f, good to firm). WEE HOPE 3l 2nd of 19 to Keepers Dawn in maiden at Nottingham (6f, good to soft). DARK DEED 3l 2nd of 10 to Obsessive in maiden at Yarmouth (6f, good). PRINCESS ERISIO 14l last of 6 to Tamnia in maiden at Haydock (6f, good to firm) on penultimate start. SOLO SYMPHONY 6¾l 4th of 11 to Fond Embrace in maiden at Nottingham (5f, good to firm) with PRINCESS ERISIO 6l 6th and GLORIA IMPERATOR about 12¾l 10th.
Selection: DARK DEED

2.40 PANNELL CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: 1m 1f 207yd) (9 runners)

201	(6)	121633	MONTECRISTO 17 (D,G) (Matthews Breeding) R Guest 9-7	F Lynch (5)	[illegible]
202	(5)	0	CHIPALATA 13 (S Taberner) T Donnelly 9-1	C Rutter	–
203	(4)	50500-0	NORTHERN CLAN 23 (Mrs E Rhind) M W Easterby 8-13	G Parkin (5)	84
204	(3)	000-00	APPEAL AGAIN 8 (C Webster) Mrs J Ramsden 8-11	K Fallon	80
205	(7)	46-64	DANCO 10 (P Geoghan) S Williams 8-11	J Tate	95
206	(2)	4346-00	PHANTOM DANCER 17 (J Berry) J Berry 8-9	J Carroll	87
207	(9)	60060-6	CRY BABY 17 (Mrs M Tinkler) N Tinkler 8-7	L Charnock	85
208	(1)	0	DISPOL AGENDA 6 (W Imson) G Oldroyd 8-4	R Cochrane	–
209	(8)	05000-0	SASSETTA 15 (Mrs C Cawley) N Tinkler 7-12	Kim Tinkler	92

BETTING: 5-4 Montecristo, 3-1 Danco, 7-2 Appeal Again, 8-1 Northern Clan, 10-1 Phantom Dancer, 12-1 Cry Baby, 14-1 others

1995: TONKA 8-5 J Weaver (5-2) D Murray Smith 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

MONTECRISTO neck and 1¾l 3rd of 12 to General Macarthur in handicap at Nottingham (1m 2f, good to firm). NORTHERN CLAN 12l 13th of 22 to Tymeera in handicap at Nottingham (6f, good). APPEAL AGAIN 11l 7th of 18 to Raindeer Quest in selling handicap at Pontefract (1m, good). DANICA 5¼l 4th of 8 to Classic Defence in maiden at Musselburgh (1m, good). PHANTOM DANCER 17l 15th of 18 to Dance Of Joy in apprentices selling handicap at Newcastle (1m, good). CRY BABY about 17¼l 6th of 12 to Dhulikhel in handicap at Warwick (1m 3f, good). SASSETTA 19l 13th of 15 to Muhtadi in handicap at Ripon (1m 2f, good).
Selection: MONTECRISTO (nap)

3.10 GANTON RATED HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £4,671: 7f 100yd) (7 runners)

301	(2)	410004-	KALA SUNRISE 192 (F) (A Needham) C Smith 9-7	W Woods	93
302	(3)	05-2	STATE OF CAUTION 17 (G Ward) J Dunlop 8-13	Pat Eddery	97
303	(4)	040-010	SUALTACH 9 (D,BF,F,S) (N Sweeney) R Hollinshead 8-12	L Dettori	[illegible]
304	(5)	103-3	COYOTE BLUFF 15 (S) (P Chapple-Hyam) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11	J Reid	95
305	(7)	31240-	MARJAANA 212 (G) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) P Walwyn 8-7	W Carson	98
306	(6)	3330-2	BAILEYS FIRST 6 (G Bailey) M Johnston 8-7	T Williams	89
307	(1)	011-3	MYBOTYE 13 (F,G) (A Moroney) G Oldroyd 8-7	K Fallon	93

Long handicap: Marjaana 8-6, Baileys First 8-8, Mybotye 7-13

BETTING: 3-1 State Of Caution, 4-1 Coyote Bluff, 5-1 Mybotye, Sualtach, 7-1 Marjaana, 8-1 Baileys First, 14-1 Kala Sunrise.

1995: SHAHID 8-12 W Carson (4-5 fav) J Dunlop 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

KALA SUNRISE about 4¼l 4th to Weel-A-Minute in listed race at Pontefract (1m, firm). STATE OF CAUTION 1¾l 2nd of 17 to Regal Archive in maiden at Kempton (7f, good). SUALTACH beat First Maite 5l in 14-runner handicap at Doncaster (7f, soft). COYOTE BLUFF neck and 7l 3rd of 4 to Sandillara in conditions race at Ripon (1m 1f, good). MARJAANA 8½l 4th of 14 to Consordino in nursery at Yarmouth (7f, good) on penultimate start. BAILEYS FIRST 3l 2nd of 6 to Golden Pound in maiden at Thirsk (6f, good to firm). MYBOTYE beat Shontaine ½l in 8-runner nursery at Redcar (6f, good to firm).
Selection: STATE OF CAUTION

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Harris	8	26	30.8	Pat Eddery	3	7	42.9
J Gosden	4	13	30.8	J Reid	5	12	41.7
L Cumani	5	18	27.8	W Carson	20	65	30.8
P Walwyn	3	11	27.3	R Price	4	14	28.6
M Johnston	19	88	21.6	M Fenton	8	29	27.6
B Hills	5	24	20.8	L Dettori	12	48	25.0

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103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

3.40 MOORTOWN MAIDEN STAKES (£3,951: 1m 100yd) (13 runners)

401	(4)	0-6	BOSTON ROCK 15 (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 4-9-12	J Quinn	76
402	(12)	00/0000-	LEGAL BRIEF 48J (B) (Wisma Partners) J Wainwright 4-9-12	D R McCabe (3)	–
403	(6)	0	SQUARED AWAY 15 (Mrs E Lake) J Payne 4-9-12	M Tebbutt	–
404	(9)	00-	BASHTHEBOARDS 188 (Bloy & Hughes) J Quinn 3-8-12	S D Williams	79
405	(10)		BRIGHT DESERT (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 3-8-12	K Darley	–
406	(5)	2-3	FREEQUENT 17 (Fittocks Stud) L Cumani 3-8-12	O Urbina	98
407	(7)	0-	MELT THE CLOUDS 188 (Mrs G Godfrey) P Harris 3-8-12	G Hind	[illegible]
408	(13)	0-0	MISKY BAY 17 (G Strawbridge) J Gosden 3-8-12	L Dettori	90
409	(8)	00	MOCK TRIAL 17 (P Leonard) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-12	K Fallon	79
410	(3)		THAKI (Hamdan Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 3-8-12	W Carson	–
411	(2)	04-	CARIBBEAN DANCER 189 (W Scott) M Stoute 3-8-7	D McKeown	83
412	(11)	05	DISPOL GEM 7 (W Imson) G Oldroyd 3-8-7	R Cochrane	98
413	(1)	00	PEACE HOUSE 12 (Mrs B Speller) J Spearing 3-8-7	S Righton (7)	–

BETTING: 2-1 Freequent, 7-2 Misky Bay, 4-1 Caribbean Dancer, 6-1 Bright Desert, 12-1 Thaki, Melt The Clouds, 14-1 others.

1995: ROMANZOF 3-8-11 W Ryan (2-1 fav) H Cecil 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

BOSTON ROCK about 12l 6th of 16 to Polinesso in maiden at Ripon (1m, good) with SQUARED AWAY 10l 12th. BASHTHEBOARDS 11l 8th to Carburton in 14-runner maiden at Haydock (7f, soft) on penultimate start. FREEQUENT 9l 3rd to Thea in 16-runner maiden at Kempton (7f, good). MELT THE CLOUDS 6¼l 7th of 21 to Germano in maiden at Doncaster (7f, good to firm) with BASHTHEBOARDS 7½l 12th. CARIBBEAN DANCER 10¾l 4th of 19 to Dushyantor in maiden at Nottingham (1m, good to firm). DISPOL GEM about 3¼l 5th of 15 to Unreal City in maiden at Ripon (1m, good to firm).
Selection: FREEQUENT

4.10 ALWOODLEY FILLIES HANDICAP
(£3,241: 1m 1f 207yd) (19 runners)

501	(8)	600025	ANCHORENA 8 (V) (Mrs J Wichelow) J A Harris 4-9-10	J F Egan	92
502	(11)	5621/5/	SILOELA 40J (D,S) (R Brewis) J Fitzgerald 6-9-10	K Darley	–
503	(18)	00/0-151	ESKIMO NEL 13 (CD,G,S) (First Chance Racing) J Spearing 5-9-7	K Fallon	97
504	(19)	100523-	DARLING CLOVER 255 (F) (K Craddock) D Morley 4-9-5	M Fenton	89
505	(4)	21400-4	WESTCOURT PRINCESS 13 (CD,F,G) M W Easterby 4-9-4	G Bardwell	93
506	(6)	162500	GREY AGAIN 13 (B,G) (Green Diamond Racing) S Bowring 4-9-3	C Teague (5)	92
507	(12)	0/05050-	LAST SPIN 42J (Mrs E Long) J Jenkins 4-9-3	N Day	98
508	(13)	10560-0	BOBANLYN 13 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Walker) J Wainwright 4-9-2	D R McCabe (3)	[illegible]
509	(15)	24330-6	BROUGHTON'S PRIDE 26 (Mrs J Morris) J Glover 5-9-1	G Carter	88
510	(16)	630644	MARADATA 21 (G) (R Hollinshead) R Hollinshead 4-9-0	L Dettori	91
511	(3)	40-6003	PINKERTON POLKA 13 (Miss E Macgregor) C Brittain 4-8-13	M Birch	97
512	(7)	560313/	MCGILLYCUDDY REEKS 353J (D,F) (Elite Racing) N Tinkler 5-8-12	L Charnock	–
513	(10)	005-010	DANCE OF JOY 5 (G) (Mrs T Carr) J Carr 4-8-12	A Colgan (7)	94
514	(9)	324-455	RISKY TU 13 (G) (L Norris) P Kelleway 5-8-10	R Cochrane	97
515	(17)	2152-00	LADY SABINA 35 (D,G) (W Musson) W Musson 6-8-9	R Price	91
516	(14)	66-5040	MILL DANCER 14 (D,F,S) (Mrs D Jones) E Alston 4-8-9	S D Williams	98
517	(1)	600040/	APPEARANCE MONEY 17J (Irish Festival Racing) F Murphy 5-8-7	J Fanning	–
518	(5)	420630-	WESTERN HORIZON 185 (Wyck Hall Stud) C Brittain 4-8-6	M Henry (5)	90
519	(2)	460-060	ROSE CHIME 75 (F) (J South) J L Harris 4-8-5	J Quinn	89

BETTING: 3-1 Eskimo Nel, 7-1 Westcourt Princess, 8-1 Pinkerton Polka, 10-1 Anchorena, Darling Clover, 14-1 Maradata, 16-1 others.

1995: WONDERFUL DAY 4-9-8 K Darley (5-2 fav) S Williams 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

ANCHORENA 7¾l 5th of 19 to Carlito Brigante in handicap at Pontefract (1m 2f, good). SILOELA beat Surrey Dancer 1l in 12-runner handicap at Newcastle (1m 2f, soft) on penultimate start, Oct 1993. ESKIMO NEL beat Princess Danielle 1¾l in 15-runner handicap at Nottingham (1m 2f, good to soft). DARLING CLOVER 7¼l 3rd of 6 to Woodrising in claimer at Leicester (1m 2f, good to firm). PINKERTON POLKA short-head and 3l 3rd of 15 to Autumn Cover in handicap at Brighton (1m, firm). MCGILLYCUDDY REEKS beat Call Me Albi ¾l in 13-runner seller at Windsor (1m 2f, good to firm) on penultimate start. DANCE OF JOY beat No Submission ½l in 18-runner selling handicap at Newcastle (1m, good).
Selection: ESKIMO NEL

4.40 WOODHALL SPA HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,769: 1m 1f 207yd) (10 runners)

601	(1)	334-150	DIEGO 35 (D,G) (C Brittain) C Brittain 9-7	M Henry (5)	98
602	(2)	03051-0	D'NAAN 19 (G) (A Almoffi) W Haggas 9-3	R Cochrane	94
603	(3)	515-	PINE NEEDLE 195 (S) (Lord Halifax) D Morley 9-3	B Thomson	93
604	(10)	334-	FAATEQ 191 (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-1	W Carson	88
605	(4)	06-0	ORINOCO RIVER 17 (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-1	J Reid	[illegible]
606	(5)	022-	ALAMBAR 185 (Hamdan Al Maktoum) P Walwyn 8-10	R Hills	96
607	(7)	421110	MISTER ASPECTO 19 (V,D,G) (Aspecto Clothing) M Johnston 8-6	L Dettori	98
608	(6)	3620-	FIKRA 226 (S Woods) S Woods 8-6	W Woods	92
609	(9)	50-4	CLASSIC COLOURS 23 (Classic Bloodstock) S Williams 8-5	A Mackay	97
610	(8)	500-00	STRATEGIC PLOY 15 (Mrs H Carr) Mrs J Ramsden 7-12	N Kennedy	90

BETTING: 5-2 Faateq, 9-2 Alambar, 6-1 Pine Needle, 7-1 Orinoco River, 8-1 Classic Colours, 10-1 Mister Aspecto, 12-1 Diego, 14-1 others.

1995: DONT SHOOT FAIRIES 8-8 B Doyle (16-1) C Brittain 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

D'NAAN beat Milton ½l in 13-runner maiden at Southwell (AW, 1m) on penultimate start. PINE NEEDLE beat Allesbury Hill 1l in 11-runner maiden at Nottingham (1m, good to soft) on penultimate start. FAATEQ about 13¾l 4th of 11 to Classic Eagle in maiden at Chepstow (1m, soft). ORINOCO RIVER 21l 9th of 14 to Shamsan in maiden at Kempton (1m 2f, good). ALAMBAR 3l 2nd of 9 to Albaha in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good). MISTER ASPECTO beat Dancing Cavalier 1¾l in 5-runner handicap at Southwell (AW, 1m 3f) on penultimate start. CLASSIC COLOURS 5¼l 4th of 11 to Shu Gaa in maiden at Nottingham (1m, good).
Selection: PINE NEEDLE

☐ Mark Johnston sends his talented stayer, Double Eclipse, to Longchamp today for the group three Prix de Barbeville. Jason Weaver's mount faces 11 rivals in the 15-furlong contest.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Fontwell Park

TRAINERS: K Bailey, *10 winners from* 26 runners, 38.5%; G Harwood, 13 from 40, 32.5%; P Hobbs, 17 from 57, 29.8%; P Nicholls, 4 from 15, 26.7%; M Bolton, 3 from 15, 20.0%; R O'Sullivan, 10 from 53, 18.9%.

JOCKEYS: C Maude, 6 winners from 21 rides, 28.6%; P Hide, 15 from 79, 19%; E Murphy, 10 from 53, 18.9%; D Morris, 16 from 101, 15.8%; J A McCarthy, 3 from 20, 15%; D O'Sullivan, 12 from 89, 13.5%.

Perth

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 11 winners from 23 runners, 47.8%; M Hammond, 21 from 79, 26.6%; P Beaumont, 4 from 17, 23.5%; J Goldie, 4 from 19, 21.1%; P Monteith, 14 from 81, 17.3%; G Richards, 19 from 118, 16.1%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 30 winners from 82 rides, 36.6%; F Leahy, 3 from 11, 27.3%; A Dobbin, 12 from 65, 18.5%; T Reed, 8 from 47, 17.0%; M Moloney, 3 from 19, 15.8%; L O'Hara, 9 from 62, 14.5%.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Catterick Bridge

Going: good, good to soft in places

2.20 (5f 212yd) 1, Panther (D Wright, 10-1); 2, Best Kept Secret (14-1); 3, The Institute Boy (8-1). Lochon 4-1 fav. 13 ran. 4l, 1½l. J Hetherton. Tote: £10.20; £2.90, £2.00, £2.70. DF: £36.70. Trio: £70.40. CSF: £145.58.

2.50 (5f) 1, Mill End Girl (J F Egan, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, C-Harry (7-1); 3, Face It (4-1). I Can't Remember 7-2 jt-fav. 10 ran. 1¾l, nk. M W Easterby. Tote: £5.40; £1.50, £2.90, £2.00. DF: £12.40. Trio: £11.70. CSF: £30.18.

3.20 (1m 3f 214yd) 1, Hasta La Vista (R Mullen, 5-1 jt-fav); 2, House Of Dreams (16-1); 3, No Pattern (8-1). Admirals Secret 5-1 jt-fav. 11 ran. ½l, 4l. M W Easterby. Tote: £8.70; £1.90, £5.60, £2.00. DF: £92.00. Trio: Not won (Pool of £292.59 carried forward to Beverley 4.10 today). CSF: £76.26. Tricast: £593.95.

3.50 (1m 3f 214yd) 1, Prince Of My Heart (M Hills, 7-4); 2, Swan Hunter (10-1); 3, Remhardt (5-2). House Of Riches 6-4 fav. 4 ran. 6l, 2l. B Hills. Tote: £2.40. DF: £5.40. CSF: £13.18.

4.20 (5f) 1, Goretski (L Charnock, 5-1); 2, First Maite (11-2); 3, Pleasure Time (25-1). Green Barries 9-4 fav. 13 ran. 1l, 4l. N Tinkler. Tote: £7.40; £2.20, £2.90, £13.90. DF: £23.90. Trio: £306.20. CSF: £34.96. Tricast: £822.87.

4.50 (7f) 1, Master Boots (L Dettori, 7-4); 2, Elite Force (3-1); 3, Menoo Hal Batal (11-8 fav). 8 ran. 2½l, ½l. D Loder. Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £1.50, £1.10. DF: £4.70. CSF: £7.84.

5.20 (7f) 1, Forest Boy (J F Egan, 6-1); 2, Silver Welcome (20-1); 3, Sharp 'N' Shady (6-1); 4, Green Gem (15-2). White Plains 3-1 fav. 20 ran. 2l, 1l. K McAuliffe. Tote: £8.70; £2.30, £9.00, £2.40, £1.10. DF: £135.50. Trio: £1,354.80. CSF: £134.53. Tricast: £757.08.

Jackpot: £22,828.50 (Part won — pool of £16,076.44 carried forward to Beverley today).

Placepot: £268.50. Quadpot: £50.40.

Southwell

Going: standard

2.00 (1m) 1, Spencer's Revenge (G Bardwell, 7-2); 2, Bit Of Bother (5-2 fav); 3, Lilac Rain (12-1). 9 ran. 1¼l, 3½l. N Tinkler. Tote: £3.40; £1.90, £1.50, £2.40. DF: £4.80. Trio: £28.80. CSF: £11.71.

2.30 (1m 4f) 1, Carol Again (F Lynch, 7-2); 2, Tempering (7-1); 3, Shepherds Rest (10-1). Instantaneous 15-8 fav. 8 ran. NR: Wadada. 8l, 2½l. N Bycroft. Tote: £3.70; £1.10, £1.50, £3.60. DF: £8.20. Trio: £37.70. CSF: £26.38. Tricast: £206.03.

3.00 (1m) 1, Awesome Venture (D R McCabe, 4-1); 2, Johnnie The Joker (8-1); 3, Ashgore (2-1 fav). 9 ran. Nk, 2½l. M Chapman. Tote: £3.60; £1.10, £2.10, £1.20. DF: £20.10. Trio: £15.10. CSF: £32.71.

3.30 (6f) 1, Napier Star (C Teague, 33-1); 2, Frontman (11-4); 3, Depiction (6-4 fav). 6 ran. NR: Topanoora Bay. ¾l, 2l. Mrs N Macauley. Tote: £57.10; £7.90, £1.80. DF: £26.70. CSF: £113.39.

4.00 (6f) 1, Maiteamia (C Teague, 9-4 fav); 2, Awafeh (14-1); 3, Seolung Destiny (7-1). 9 ran. 5l, 1l. S Bowring. Tote: £3.10; £1.40, £4.70, £1.30. DF: £31.70. Trio: £28.80. CSF: £30.21. Tricast: £179.24.

4.30 (7f) 1, People Direct (Dane O'Neill, 15-8 fav); 2, Miss Offset (9-2); 3, Loch Style (7-1). 8 ran. ¾l, 4l. K McAuliffe. Tote: £2.10; £1.40, £1.50, £2.20. DF: £4.20. Trio: £9.40. CSF: £10.49.

5.00 (7f) 1, Domino Flyer (J Fortune, 8-1); 2, Young Mazaad (9-2 fav); 3, Hornpipe (8-1); 4, Miss Tri Colour (20-1). 16 ran. 5l, ¾l. Mrs A Swinbank. Tote: £8.20; £1.70, £2.00, £3.40, £6.70. DF: £6.40. Trio: £107.60. CSF: £43.10. Tricast: £282.91.

Placepot: £32.20. Quadpot: £18.90.

Perth

Going: soft

2.40 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Wassl Street (A S Smith, 5-1); 2, Barnstormer (16-1); 3, Highland View (5-1). Corston Joker 5-2 fav (unseated rider). 12 ran. Dist, ½l. K Morgan. Tote: £6.50; £2.30, £3.70, £2.10. DF: £73.10. Trio: £204.00. CSF: £75.62.

3.10 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Grace Card (Mr S Swiers, 14-1); 2, Brief Reunion (25-1); 3, Father O'Brien (12-1). Dorlin Castle 5-2 fav (fell). 11 ran. NR: D'Arblay Street, Nicholas Plant. 2½l, 1½l. R Woodhouse. Tote: £17.20; £3.40, £4.90, £3.60. DF: £187.70. Trio: £207.80. CSF: £260.41. Tricast: £3,893.65.

3.40 (3m ch) 1, Howcleuch (B Storey, 4-1); 2, Rocket Run (7-2); 3, Parsons Boy (10-11 fav). 6 ran. Nk, 12l. J Oliver. Tote: £4.90; £1.80, £2.40. DF: £7.80. CSF: £16.47.

4.10 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Merry Mermaid (B Storey, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Current Speech (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Steadfast Elite (12-1). 7 ran. ¾l, 10l. B Mactaggart. Tote: £4.00; £2.50, £2.40. DF: £4.90. CSF: £15.26.

4.40 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Potato Man (G Cahill, 8-1); 2, East Houston (6-1); 3, Stormy Coral (5-2 fav). 10 ran. 2l, 9l. B Ellison. Tote: £10.10; £1.70, £2.50, £1.60. DF: £21.30. Trio: £15.10. CSF: £51.74. Tricast: £142.63.

5.10 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Welsh Mill (P Niven, 8-13 fav); 2, Music Blitz (50-1); 3, Porphyrios (10-3). 8 ran. 1¾l, ¾l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £4.20. DF: £9.40. CSF: £19.27.

5.40 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Cattly Hang (Mr W Morgan, 2-1 fav); 2, Jubran (9-2); 3, Blooming Spring (25-1). 11 ran. 1l, 23l. J Leigh. Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £2.00, £3.80. DF: £5.80. Trio: £35.70. CSF: £11.00.

Placepot: £1,079.80. Quadpot: £10.30.

PERTH

THUNDERER

2.00 Grouse-N-Heather. 2.30 Act Of Faith. 3.00 Clay County. 3.30 Opera Fan. 4.00 Romany King. 4.30 Scarba.

Carl Evans: 4.00 Southern Minstrel.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS

2.00 TOTE CREDIT MAIDEN CHASE
(£3,571: 2m) (9 runners)

1	05	HAMILTON TERRACE 33 K Bailey 7-11-7	J Railton	–
2	/P5-	LITHGIE-BRIG 332 A Crow 13-11-7	P Waggott	–
3	5345	LIVE AND LET LIVE 34 (V) Miss L Russell 12-11-7	M Foster	80
4	663P	ORD GALLERY 58 T Dyer 7-11-7	A Linton (7)	–
5	23-0	WALLS COURT 5 J Barker 9-11-7	L O'Hara	[illegible]
6	3P42	CALLED TO ACCOUNT 17P Mrs L Marshall 7-11-2	D Bentley	–
7	FUPF	EDINA 19 (B) K Bailey 6-11-2	A Thornton	–
8	-5P2	GROUSE-N-HEATHER 34 P Monteith 7-11-2	A Dobbin	98
9	/P2	OVER THE ISLAND 10 H Johnson 8-11-2	Mr C Bonner (3)	96

3-1 Grouse-N-Heather, 4-1 Ord Gallery, 5-1 Live And Let Live, 6-1 Walls Court, Over The Island, 7-1 Edina, 8-1 Hamilton Terrace, 12-1 others

2.30 BANKERS INSURANCE COMPANY FUTURE STARS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£4,572: 3m 110yd) (15)

1	F163	ACT OF FAITH 34 (S) N Gaselee 6-11-5	P Niven	[illegible]
2	3522	JULTARA 22 (S) J Edwards 7-11-5	B Harding	89
3	1533	NAUGHTY FUTURE 5 (D,G,S) J J O'Neill 7-11-5	A Roche	91
4	-21F	ANYTHINGYOULIKE 33P (S) C Smith 7-10-12	L Wyer	–
5	5	BALLYVAUGHAN 61 E Elliot 6-10-12	J Railton	73
6	0-P	BROOMHILL DUKER 321 J Hellens 6-10-12	A Dobbin	–
7	F	CHOPWELL DRAPES 72 H Johnson 6-10-12	Hugh Taylor	–
8	2642	CRAGNABUOY 10 W Reed 6-10-12	T Reed	58
9		DUN COADY K Bailey 7-10-12	A Thornton	–
10	0300	ROBARA 31 S Leadbetter 6-10-12	N Leach	58
11	00	YOUNG KENNY 138 P Beaumont 5-10-12	R Supple	–
12	0-0P	COQUET GOLD 31 F Walton 5-10-7	B Storey	–
13	1-00	DAISY DAYS 34 (S) H Johnson 6-10-7	Mr C Bonner	50
14	0500	FLOWER OF DUNBLANE 5 Mrs D Thomson 5-10-7	A Wallwork	–
15	0000	MEADOWLECK 9 W Young 7-10-7	G Cahill	–

11-4 Act Of Faith, 7-2 Jultara, 9-2 Dun Coady, Naughty Future, 8-1 Cragnabuoy, 10-1 Chopwell Drapes, 12-1 others

☐ Bill Turner, the trainer, was fined £500 yesterday and his mare, Lying Eyes, disqualified for failing a dope test after winning at Wincanton in January.

FONTWELL PARK

THUNDERER

2.20 Just Bruce. 2.50 The Carrot Man. 3.20 Raqib. 3.50 Menebuck. 4.20 Childhay Chocolate. 4.50 Haunting Music. 5.20 Antonio Mariano.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.20 JUST BRUCE.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS

2.20 RMS AND TCR MAIDEN HURDLE
(Div I: £2,119: 2m 2f) (12 runners)

1	36-0	BLURRED IMAGE 161 J Poulton 5-11-6	B Powell
2	4U03	CLOCK WATCHERS 17 J Bridger 8-11-6	D Morris
3		COUNTRY GENT P Leclerc 5-11-6	J A McCarthy
4		DONT TOUCH P Butler 6-11-6	G Hogan (3)
5	5F5	FIRST INSTANCE 40 D Grissell 5-11-6	B Fenton (3)
6	4404	IMPERIAL VINTAGE 17 K Bailey 6-11-6	T J Murphy (3)
7	455U	JUST BRUCE 17 Mrs E Heath 7-11-6	D Gallagher
8	0	MICKY BROWN 31 Miss L Bower 5-11-6	W McFarland
9		PERFECT MINSTREL Mrs I McKie 5-11-6	L Harvey
10	5-P3	RAPHAEL BODINE 17 Miss V Williams 7-11-6	R Davis
11	-635	WIN A HAND 19 B Ryall 6-11-1	G Upton
12		ZAMALEK 298F G L Moore 4-11-0	E Murphy

3-1 Raphael Bodine, 7-2 Imperial Vintage, 5-1 Just Bruce, 6-1 Zamalek, 8-1 Win A Hand, Clock Watchers, 10-1 Blurred Image, 12-1 others.

2.50 RAPIDE MORTGAGE SERVICES AND CORNHILL LIFE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,207: 2m 2f) (13)

1	-64P	SAFFAAH 12 (G,S) S Knight 9-12-0	S Burrough
2	1256	THE CARROT MAN 12 (CD,F,G) P Winkworth 8-11-6	J R Kavanagh
3	P-11	BLACK CHURCH 17 (D,F,S) R Rowe 10-10-13	D O'Sullivan
4	3033	DRUMSTICK 19 (CD,F,G,S) K Bailey 10-10-13	G Hogan (3)
5	F251	LAKE OF LOUGHREA 22 (F,G) K Bailey 6-10-13	T J Murphy (3)
6	3044	RAINBOW CASTLE 31 (C,G) J Gifford 9-10-12	L Aspell (5)
7	-140	RAMSTAR 111 (F,S) P Hobbs 8-10-12	G Tormey (3)
8	32UU	POLDEN PRIDE 14 (F) G Balding 8-10-9	B Clifford
9	2431	MINE'S AN ACE 127 (D,F,G,S) Miss V Williams 9-10-6	R Greene
10	0244	WYLAM 17 (C,F,G,S) J Gifford 9-10-3	P Hide
11	06P2	TROJAN CALL 17 (B,G) R Rowe 9-10-0	I Lawrence
12	PP58	MASTER COMEDY 14 (B,CD,F,S) Miss L Bower 12-10-0	L Harvey
13	2P30	UPWARD SURGE 5 (F) R Ledger 6-10-0	Mrs N Ledger

3-1 Lake Of Loughrea, 4-1 Black Church, 5-1 Mine's An Ace, 6-1 Drumstick, 7-1 Ramstar, 8-1 Rainbow Castle, 10-1 Wylam, 12-1 others.

3.20 STREBEL BOILERS AND RADIATORS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,658: 2m 6f) (14)

1	UFU	BEYOND OUR REACH 19P (D,G,S) R Hodges 8-11-10	T Dascombe (3)
2	2601	MISS DISKIN 17 (CD,S) R Buckler 7-11-9	G Supple (7)
3	030P	MUNTAFI 40 (S) G Harwood 5-11-8	C Maude
4	0635	RAQIB 8 (G) P Ritchens 5-11-7	D Gallagher
5	2604	FOR KEVIN 38 (S) L Wells 9-11-4	G Hogan (3)
6	1162	FRESH CHOICE 37 (CD,BF,S) R Rowe 6-11-2	D O'Sullivan
7	5036	RIO TRUSKY 23 D Grissell 7-11-0	B Fenton (3)
8	F-60	RAAHIN 37 (CD,F,G,S) S Woodman 11-10-7	S McNeill
9	3363	SCRIPT 17 (F) J Jenkins 5-10-5	S Fox
10	0P00	MEANUS MILLER 14 (S) R Rowe 8-10-0	L Aspell (5)
11	F052	TEL E THON 17 (V,F,G) Miss C Caroe 9-10-0	D Leahy
12	-251	PRINCE NASHA 14 (CD,F) K C-Brown 6-10-0	D Walsh (3)
13	-PU5	WILTOSKI 17 (B,F,G) R Ledger 8-10-0	Mrs N Ledger
14	-540	CHINAMAN 37 (C,F) J Mullins 7-10-0	R Greene

3-1 Miss Diskin, 7-2 Fresh Choice, 5-1 Rio Trusky, 6-1 Prince Nasha, 7-1 others

3.00 RMC CATHERWOOD LTD LITTLE BAY HANDICAP CHASE (£6,808: 2m) (7)

1	4F10	CLAY COUNTY 26 (CD,BF,F,G,S) M Hammond 11-12-0	R Garritty	93
2	1341	WEE RIVER 34 (D,F,G,S) G Moore 7-10-12	J Callaghan	94
3	P044	POLITICAL TOWER 6 (D,G,S) R Nixon 9-10-4	A Dobbin	[illegible]
4	FFP0	SONSIE MO 6 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 11-10-0	L Wyer	85
5	/P-P	DANTE'S INFERNO 38 (C,D,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 10-10-0	Mr M Bradburne (7)	–
6	5504	SUPER SANDY 38 (D,S) F Walton 9-10-0	B Storey	61
7	005-	CARDENDEN 371 (D,G) J Barclay 8-10-0	A Thornton	51

5-4 Wee River, 6-4 Clay County, 8-1 Political Tower, 12-1 Sonsie Mo, 16-1 others.

3.30 AMERICAN BANKERS SELLING HURDLE
(£2,957: 2m 110yd) (11)

1	F/0	PRINCIPAL PLAYER 6 (D,G) P Monteith 6-11-7	A Dobbin	90
2	01	OPERA FAN 58 (D,G) K Morgan 4-11-1	A S Smith	[illegible]
3	P	BALATA BAY 104 J Birkett 5-11-0	M Moloney	–
4	UPU0	DERWENT LAD 9 M Barnes 7-11-0	P Waggott	79
5	-060	HOME PARK 38 (V) T Dyer 6-11-0	A Linton (7)	80
6	-050	POP IN THERE 9 J Barkett 8-11-0	L O'Hara	79
7	3PP5	BELLE ROSE 33 G Richards 6-10-9	B Harding	81
8	5-P5	DRUMDONNA 93 P Beaumont 6-10-9	R Supple	–
9	000-	TRY AGAIN JANE 433F B Ellison 6-10-9	G Cahill (3)	–
10	0640	EIGHT SHARP 17F M Hammond 4-10-8	R Garritty	89
11	3340	VINTAGE TAITTINGER 14F T Dyer 4-10-8	R McGrath (7)	91

7-4 Opera Fan, 9-2 Eight Sharp, 5-1 Vintage Taittinger, 8-1 Drumdonna, 10-1 Principal Player, 12-1 Home Park, Belle Rose, 14-1 others

4.00 PERTH HUNT BALNAKEILLY CHALLENGE CUP HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,316: 3m) (7)

1	1103	SOUTHERN MINSTREL 7 (F,G,S) N Chamberlain 13-12-5	S Swiers	90
2	5R3	FISH QUAY 19P (D,F,G,S) Mrs K Lamb 13-12-0	Miss S Lamb (7)	80
3	-111	HOWAYMAN 33P (G,S) K Anderson 6-12-0	A Parker (7)	–
4	3U21	LITTLE WENLOCK 11P (F,S) Mrs D Gibson 12-12-0	Mrs V Jackson (7)	–
5	3-P4	MR DIPLOMATIC 34 (B,G,S) J L Palmer 13-12-0	M Bradburne (7)	57
6	4-80	ROMANY KING 28 (D,G,S) K Bailey 12-12-0	C Bonner (3)	[illegible]
7	F-P2	SECRET SCEPTRE 11P (G,S) R Bartlett 9-12-0	N Wilson (5)	–

7-4 Romany King, 5-2 Howayman, 4-1 Southern Minstrel, 8-1 Little Wenlock, 10-1 Mr Diplomatic, 14-1 Fish Quay, 16-1 Secret Sceptre

4.30 BANKERS EQUINE DIRECT HANDICAP HURDLE
(£4,338: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1	1206	KAITAK 12 (G) J Carr 5-11-13	F Leahy (3)	93
2	0040	BURNT IMP 5 (D,F,G,S) G Moore 6-11-12	J Callaghan	94
3	62U2	URBAN DANCING 17 (G) B Ellison 7-11-0	G Cahill (3)	93
4	0015	JYMJAM JOHNNY 141 (BF,S) J J O'Neill 7-11-0	A Roche (3)	85
5	1-15	JOHNS THE BOY 166 (CD,G,S) N Mason 10-10-5	S Haworth (7)	83
6	0422	SCARBA 36 (S) J Jefferson 8-10-0	L Wyer	91
7	U055	NICHOLAS PLANT 5 (D,S) J Goldie 7-10-0	D Parker (3)	[illegible]

9-4 Jymjam Johnny, 7-2 Scarba, 4-1 Urban Dancing, 6-1 Kaitak, 7-1 Johns The Boy, 10-1 Burnt Imp, Nicholas Plant

3.50 TRUNDLE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£4,045: 3m 2f 110yd) (7)

1	-640	MENEBUCK 22 (C,F,G,S) Lady Herries 10-11-12	E Murphy
2	3F16	SMUGGLER'S POINT 8 (F,G) R O'Sullivan 6-11-0	S Curran
3	5630	JADIDH 12 (F,G,S) C Wildman 8-10-10	D Salter (5)
4	2-41	PUNCH'S HOTEL 206 (B,CD,F,G,S) R Rowe 11-10-10	D O'Sullivan
5	40UP	ROYAL SQUARE 15 (C,F,G,S) G Harwood 10-10-9	S McNeill
6	0F10	DOMINE 36 (B,BF,G,S) K Bailey 8-10-8	T J Murphy (3)
7	04RR	ST VILLE 12 (G,S) R Buckler 10-10-0	B Powell

11-4 Smuggler's Point, 7-2 Domine, 5-1 Punch's Hotel, Jadidh, 6-1 Royal Square, Menebuck, 12-1 St Ville

4.20 RAPIDE MORTGAGE SERVICES NOVICES CHASE (£3,070: 3m 2f 110yd) (6)

1	012	CHILDHAY CHOCOLATE 19 (CD,BF,F,S) P Nicholls 8-11-8	P Hide
2	UU12	FOXGROVE 9 (F,G) R Price 10-11-3	B Fenton (3)
3	255U	CALL ME RIVER 17 (BF) P Hedger 8-11-2	I Lawrence
4	PP25	INVER CLOUD 14 C Weedon 7-11-2	G Hogan (3)
5	-662	TEARFUL PRINCE 17 C Mitchell 12-11-2	J Power (7)
6	1453	OMIDJOY 17 (B,F) J Jenkins 6-10-11	S Fox

6-4 Childhay Chocolate, 3-1 Foxgrove, 9-2 Call Me River, 5-1 Tearful Prince, 10-1 Omidjoy, 14-1 Inver Cloud

4.50 RAPIDE MORTGAGE SERVICES AND FINBAR NOVICES HURDLE (£2,658: 2m 6f) (12)

1	2158	HAUNTING MUSIC 68 (D,G) G Harwood 8-11-8	S McNeill
2	6225	TIM 12 (F) J Jenkins 6-11-8	S Fox
3	5140	ZEREDAR 19 K Bailey 5-11-8	J A McCarthy
4	P512	SPRING GRASS 12 (CD,S) B Ryall 8-11-3	T Dascombe (3)
5	PP4F	ALFION 8 C Weedon 7-11-2	G Crone
6	6P-	EVERSO UMBLE 482 J Poulton 5-11-2	B Powell
7	00P0	GENERAL JACKIE 14 J Gifford 5-11-2	P Hide
8		LORD OF THE MILL Mrs I McKie 5-11-2	W McFarland
9		MILLFRONE R Rowe 6-11-2	D O'Sullivan
10	0P	RAVUS 19 K Vincent 6-11-2	A Dicken
11	500	ROYAL DADDA 17 Mrs I McKie 6-11-2	L Harvey
12	6PP0	MINTURE MELODY 22 (B) P Ritchens 8-10-11	D Gallagher

6-4 Haunting Music, 7-2 Tim, 5-1 Spring Grass, 6-1 Zeredar, 7-1 General Jackie, 10-1 Millfrone, 12-1 others

5.20 RMS AND TCR MAIDEN HURDLE
(Div II: £2,098: 2m 2f) (12)

1		ANTONIO MARIANO 703F J Gifford 5-11-6	P Hide
2	0-00	COALISLAND 23 R Ingram 6-11-6	K Gaule (3)
3	PP-4	COLERIDGE 14 (B) J Sheehan 8-11-6	S Curran
4	/PP	MR ZIEGFELD 101 (B) Miss L Bower 7-11-6	L Harvey
5	5664	NIGHT IN A MILLION 17 (B) S Woodman 5-11-6	B Fenton (3)
6	03	REVERSE THRUST 31 P Hedger 5-11-6	M Clinton (7)
7	0PP0	ROYAL HAND 17 M Madgwick 6-11-6	D Morris
8		THE SWANGLER M Bolton 9-11-6	L Aspell (5)
9	0052	WHISTLING BUCK 19 (S) R Rowe 6-11-6	D O'Sullivan
10	P0	JIMSISTER 140 C Nash 6-11-1	J R Kavanagh
11	P4P	ANALOGUE 9F P Mitchell 4-11-0	G Tormey (3)
12	063	PRETORIA DANCER 14 (B,BF) C Brooks 4-11-0	D Gallagher

3-1 Pretoria Dancer, 7-2 Antonio Mariano, 4-1 Coleridge, 6-1 Whistling Buck, 7-1 Night In A Million, 8-1 Analogue, 10-1 others

Blinkered first time

BEVERLEY: 2.10 Golborne Lad. 3.40 Legal Brief. FONTWELL PARK: 4.50 Minture Melody. 5.20 Night In A Million

Play the game but don't wear the pullover

A touch of arrogant and flamboyant mockery of an opponent who has mucked things up is nothing new in sport. Some games even have it deep in their make-up. When the British Raj was at its height, young officers would while away the long afternoons of the rainy season around the billiard table. In 1875, the Devonshire Regiment was stationed at Jabalpur, in India, and there, as elsewhere, the officers found billiards all too boring compared with variations like pyramid or black pool — games that used a lot of red balls could accommodate more than two players and add a welcome touch of gambling.

'Snooker is nothing if not entertainment'

One inspired subaltern, named Neville Chamberlain, had the great idea of adding other coloured balls — yellow, green and pink for a start — to liven up the contest. Great game; all it needed was a name.

Enter a visiting second-lieutenant who had been trained at the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich. He revealed that first-year cadets there were known as "snookers", and that the term was in use as all-purpose insult for the lowest of the low.

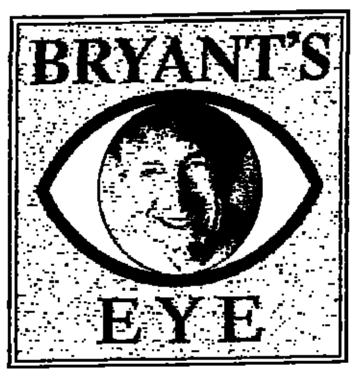
Chamberlain evidently savoured a fresh insult as much as a novel game, and next time an opponent missed an easy pot, he mocked him as a "regular snooker". The insult caught on among the players and the game has been called *snooker ever since.*

This week, the game whose very name is a mocking insult has seen a war of words over the conduct of one of its players who was accused of being "disrespectful" to his opponent. Ronnie O'Sullivan upset the snooker establishment — and his opponent, Alain Robidoux — last weekend at the Embassy world championship in Sheffield, when he played some shots with his left hand.

As the defeated French Canadian left the table at the end of the game, he refused to shake hands, and worse was to follow at the post-competition press conference. Robidoux protested that O'Sullivan had not shown him enough respect. "It might be good for the crowd," he said, "but I was struggling with my game and he was only rubbing it in."

O'Sullivan rubbed it in further by saying: "I didn't give him any respect because he didn't deserve it ... his performance was useless, rubbish ... so was mine. I was just slapping the balls about."

O'Sullivan, of course, was playing to the crowd and showing off a bit. He was dominating the game and humbling his opponent — which is more or less the aim in sport. His crime was that he showed it. For what is acceptable in the way of gratuitous humiliation of an opponent varies from sport to sport.



When you hit a home run in baseball, for instance, you still run round all the bases. You do not strut, you do not swagger, you do not rub in your superiority. But, in boxing, it is all part of the game to humiliate your opponent. For a man like Naseem Hamed, arrogance and brashness are as much a part of the package as his ability to hit. The same was true of Muhammad Ali, Sugar Ray Leonard and a catalogue of other greats.

In golf, it would be considered outrageous to show disrespect for a struggling opponent. At the Masters in Augusta, Nick Faldo betrayed not a flicker of triumph as he watched Greg Norman go to pieces. Yet other sports, like cycling, seem positively to enjoy the sight of a champion dishing out punishment to lesser performers. "Victory is the very essence of sport," Eddy Merckx said. "The rage to vanquish gave me the nickname of Cannibal."

Earlier this year, Great Britain's best 400-metres runner, Du'aine Ladejo, earned a dressing-down from his team manager, Verona Elder, for his antics during a relay. Ladejo thought he was delighting the crowd at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall when, almost a lap from the finish and ten yards in the lead, he began waving his baton in a victory salute. Then he slowed down, allowed a hapless French runner to close, only to outsprint him with another wave. The crowd loved it, and Steve Ovett, commentating for television, said: "Good stuff. I enjoy a bit of that."

'The acceptable varies from sport to sport'

Elder said: "It was not the sort of thing we would encourage," and there were some sniffy letters to *Athletics Weekly*. But Ladejo saw his performance as simply "entertaining the crowd".

And entertainment is the key. For snooker is nothing if not entertainment. It works so well on the small screen that it might have been invented for television. But, to be entertaining, the games must be dramatic and closely fought. In the days before television coverage, Joe Davis virtually killed off the world championship by monopolising it from 1927 to 1946. Quite simply, no one could beat him.

Ironically, earlier in his career, local miners who found him much too good at taking their stake money away used to insist that Davis play them left-handed to even things up a bit — foreshadowing one of the crimes of which poor O'Sullivan now stands accused.

The other dark, disciplinary cloud that hangs over his head concerns a pullover. The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association is investigating not just his behaviour towards Robidoux but also the heinous charge that, at the European Open in Malta two months ago, O'Sullivan arrived for a pre-event reception wearing a polo-neck jumper when the players were required to wear lounge suits.

As O'Sullivan goes out today to play his second-round game against Tony Drago in Sheffield, he should reflect that he has a good defence to some of the charges. In the matter of insults, he is as innocent as the very man who gave the game and its name to the world. And, in playing left-handed to liven things up, he was but following the great Joe Davis.

Sadly, when it comes to the pullover, he is probably guilty as charged.

JOHN BRYANT

RADIO CHOICE

Slaughter of the innocent

The Mineclearers. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

Whether anything will come of current moves to ban the manufacture and sale of landmines is, unfortunately, not in the lap of the gods. The deities would never have turned a blind eye to the estimated 100 million mines that remain scattered throughout more than 60 countries, killing or maiming the innocent. Brian Barron restricts his grim report to the one-time killing fields of Cambodia, from which he used to file his reports. The British charity Halo uses ex-servicemen to clear the mines and train Cambodians to tackle the dangerous job themselves. Barron goes out on a mineclearing operation that is chilling to listen to. The big bang that results proclaims the fact that Cambodians have only another seven million buried killers to worry about.

Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue. *Radio 4, 6.30pm.*

BBC producers don't always like to send out preview tapes of new comedy series. They fear a kneejerk thumbs-down response from critics. And with mixed metaphors like that, who could blame them for having qualms? They needn't worry about my response to *Life, Death etc.* I thought Bill Dare's sequence of sketches parodying breakfast time TV chat shows was fresh, funny, fast and free of bad jokes about bodily functions and sexual aberration. Robert Duncan and Julia Hills cope delightfully with Bill Dare's kindly distortion of the Annes and Nicks of the small screen.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, incl **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq and Jo Whiley **9.00** Soundcafe, with Danny Kelly **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **12.00** Clare Sturgess

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Martin Kelner **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Judi Spiers **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** The News Huddlines **7.30** David Allan **9.00** Paul Jones **9.45** Gospel Train **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme incl **6.55, 7.55** Racing preview **8.35** The Magazine incl **10.35** Euronews **11.30** Health News **12.00** Midday with Mair incl **12.34pm** Moneycheck with Katie Derham **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five incl at **3.15** Prime Minister's Question Time **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide, incl **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra with Valerie Sanderson, incl at **7.20** Sport **7.35** Quite Remarkable. A profile of the sports commentator David Coleman who celebrates his 70th birthday tomorrow **8.05** Women on Top **9.05** SportsAmerica **9.35** American Graffiti **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** After Hours — Early Call **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.30am The Breakfast Show with Paul Ross **10.00** Scott Chisholm **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Tommy Boyd **5.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Sport **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. **5.00am** News **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** World Today **7.30** Sports International **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Network UK **9.00** News in German **9.15** Composer of the Month **9.45** Health Matters **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Sports International **10.45** Sport **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Off the Shelf **12.00** World News **12.30pm** Meridian **1.00** News in German **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Assignment **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack: X Press **4.00** News **4.05** Sport **4.15** BBC English **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain Today **6.00** News **6.10** World Today **6.25** Take Five **6.30** News in German **6.45** Sport **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Assignment **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.01** Outlook **9.25** Words of Faith **9.30** John Peel **10.00** World News **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian (Books) **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.00** News **12.10am** Take Five **12.15** Soundbyte **12.30** Blues World **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Good Books **1.45** Britain Today **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Outlook **2.55** Words of Faith **3.00** Newsday **3.30** Thirty-Minute Drama **4.00** News **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Travel Guide **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyle **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Presented by Andrew MacGregor. Anon (Sarum chant: A solis ortus cardine); Brahms (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat); Scarlatti (Sonata in C, Kk 502); Mahler (Piano Quartet in A minor); Verdi (Overture: The Force of Destiny); Handel (The Lord our enemy has slain)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Virgil Thomson (Suite: The Plow that Broke the Plains); Verdi (Surta e la notta; Ernani, involami); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 4 in G)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Stephanie Hughes. Berlioz (March to the Scaffold, Symphonie fantastique); Satie (Parade); Fanny Mendelssohn (Piano Trio in D minor); Spohr (Seven Songs, Op 154) **11.15** *Artists of the Week*: The Sixteen under Harry Christophers. Frank Martin (Mass for double choir) **11.40** Mozart (Fantasia in D minor, K 397); Puccini (Turandot, excerpts)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Szymanowksi. Arr Kochanski, Roxana's Song (King Roger); King Roger (excerpts)

1.00pm We Must Get Together Some Time. Gordon Stewart introduces the final selection of operatic excerpts in this series of three. Includes excerpts from Cosi fan tutte, Carmen and Candide

2.00 Schools Radio Showcase **2.05** In the News **2.25** Something to Think About **2.40** Music Workshop

3.00 The BBC Orchestras: BBC Concert Orchestra, under Barry Wordsworth. The first performance of Paul Reade's Byron, with John Carlisle as speaker

5.00 The Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson

5.15 In Tune. Includes, Prokofiev (Les Ridicules, The Love for Three Oranges); Haydn (Piano Trio in D minor, H XV 23)

6.30 The BBC Symphony Orchestra European Tour. Live from the Konzerthaus, Vienna. Heinrich Schiff, cello, under Andrew Davies. Berlioz (Overture: Béatrice et Bénédict); Dvořák (Cello Concerto in B minor) **7.20** Anthony Burton and David Matthews discuss Tippett, the symphonist (r) **7.40** Tippett (Symphony No 4)

8.30 Distant Contemporaries. Ruth Crouch, violin, Ursula Smith, cello, Peter Donohoe, piano, James Clark, violin, and Catherine Marwood, viola, perform Elgar (Quintet for violin and cello); Ravel (Sonata for violin and cello)

9.40 Epics of Everyday Life. Susan Richards's account of her travels through the former Soviet Union, read by Elaine Claxton (3/4)

10.00 Music Restored, with Helen Garrison. A concert given by the Orlando Consort last month in Bath

10.45 Night Waves

11.30 Composer of the Week: Debussy. Includes Nocturnes; La Puerta del Vino; Les Terrasses des audiences(r)

12.30-1.00am Jazz Notes in New York, with Digby Fairweather

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing incl Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today incl **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** *Weather*

9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze. Jeremy Vine's guests include Janet Daley, Rabbi Hugo Gryn, Michael Mansfield QC and Dr David Starkey

10.00 News: Brighton Rock (FM only). The first episode of a five-part dramatisation of Graham Greene's classic tale. With Steven Mackintosh and Claire Skinner (r)

10.00 Daily Service (LW only)

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)

10.30 Woman's Hour

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

12.00 News; Your and Yours, with Chris Choi

12.25pm Looking Forward to the Past. Paul Boateng, MP, is joined by James Cox, Lady Antonia Fraser, Professor Roger Gosden and Dr Thomas Stuttaford **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Judith Shakespeare, by Nan Woodhouse. The story, set in the early 17th century, of William Shakespeare's younger daughter. With Amanda Root and Michael Pennington

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope

4.45 Short Story: The Weighing Up, by Angela Huth. Life is a whirl of walnut clusters and chocolate cremes for Avril Mullins. Read by Brigit Forsyth

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue. See Choice

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 The Mineclearers. See Choice

8.00 Analysis. Punish or Pardon? Should the perpetrators of past political crimes be hunted down and punished?

8.45 *Better Left Unsaid?* An unsent letter from the journalist Ken Lukowiak to Mostar (3/6)

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? With Frederick Dove

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59 Weather**

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: A Shropshire Lad (4/5)

11.00 Second Bite — Late Night. The Thrill of the Chase by Craig Baxter. An award-winning play which tells the story of an immaculately conceived baby. With Jeremy Colton, Shirin Taylor and Geoffrey Leesley (r)

11.30 Utopia and Other Destinations (FM only). Patricia J. Williams, Professor of Law at Columbia University, talks to Michael O'Donnell (5/6) (r)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW only)

12.00 News incl **12.27am** Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Lipstick on the Host, by Aidan Matthews (4/7) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson**

Griffiths focuses on great escape

By Phil Yates

TERRY GRIFFITHS, a veteran of 18 Embassy world snooker championship campaigns, has never been involved in a more dramatic finish than that to his 10-9 victory over Jamie Burnett in the first round of this year's event at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday.

After trailing 6-0, 8-3 and 9-5, Griffiths, winner of the 1979 championship as a rookie professional, summoned up the fighting qualities for which he is renowned to earn a meeting with Steve Davis in the last 16.

Meanwhile, Burnett, 20, was left to ponder a shot with which he will long be associated. When Griffiths found no escape route from a snooker in the tense deciding frame, he left Burnett with a glorious opportunity to stumble over the line. The Scot cleared the last two reds to green but, requiring only the brown off its spot to leave Griffiths needing a snooker, Burnett inexcusably screwed the cue-ball in-off to a middle pocket.

"I was resigned to defeat, then disaster struck Jamie and suddenly I had another chance. How I held myself together I'll never know. But the moral of the story is never to give up," Griffiths said, after clearing brown to black under intense pressure. As was to be expected from a true gentleman, who had gone out of his way to put Burnett at ease on his Crucible debut, Griffiths expressed sympathy for his rival. "It's a horrible way to lose and, no matter how pleased I am, I can't help feeling sorry for the lad."

Griffiths, who despite this result is sure to be relegated from the game's top 16, was heading for an embarrassingly heavy defeat when Burnett, a former United Kingdom junior champion, established a 6-0 lead in the first session on Tuesday.

The first inkling that Griffiths, at 48 the oldest competitor in the field, could possibly mount a recovery, presented itself when he won the closing two frames of the opening session but Burnett, still a toddler when his opponent lifted the trophy here, moved 8-3 ahead on the resumption.

Then suddenly, Griffiths began to fire. Breaks of 43, 55, 67 and 50 helped him rally to 7-9 and he won the seventeenth frame on the blue after Burnett, by now understandably nervous, missed a black off its spot and squandered chances on both yellow and green.

A difficult yellow across the balk cushion, with the remainder of the colours at his mercy, also eluded Burnett in the next and Griffiths fashioned a clearance to set up a deciding frame that could hardly have been more gripping.

Griffiths, who has struggled in vain to make the adjustment to the bifocal spectacles failing eyesight forced him to wear for the first time this season, was in no doubt why he won. "I might have lost most things from my game, but I haven't lost the will to win," he said.

John Higgins, widely regarded as the most realistic challenger to the continued world championship dominance of Stephen Hendry, failed to engage top gear but still registered a 10-5 win over Martin Clark.

Darren Morgan, who captured his first major title at the Irish Masters last month, unexpectedly trailed Drew Henry, a Scottish qualifier, 5-4, entering their concluding session.

SCORES

FIRST ROUND (England unless stated): N Bond bt A Hamilton 10-9; K Doherty (Ire) bt N Terry 10-5; J Higgins (Scot) bt M Clark 10-5; T Griffiths (Wales) bt J Burnett (Scot) 10-9. D Henry (Scot) leads D Morgan (Wales) 5-4; J Michie leads J Wattana (Thai) 5-4

ERIC WHITEHEAD

Griffiths, who now needs spectacles, gives a testing shot complete concentration

Beadsworth unbowed

ANDY BEADSWORTH, Barry Parkin and Adrian Stead produced a fine performance under pressure here in Hyères on the Côte d'Azur yesterday to book their place in the final match-racing stages of the Soling class at the French Olympic classes regatta (Edward Gorman writes).

Beadsworth went into the race yesterday — the fifth in the series — lying tenth, two places outside the qualification positions with the Dane, Theis Palm, and the Austrian, Michael Luschan, to beat.

Sailing in their third-string boat, they showed good speed up the first beat in light, shifting conditions and rounded the mark in ninth.

By the first downwind mark, they had improved to seventh and, on the last run, they overcame the South African, Bruce Savage, in a close-fought gybing match to finish in sixth place. This put them two points ahead of Luschan, who finished eleventh, and five ahead of Palm, who was fifteenth.

In the 470s, John Merricks and Ian Walker moved into a commanding overall lead with a third place in the third race of the final series.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

WHANGDOODLE

(b) A mythical bird that grieves continuously. As far as is scrutable from the limited evidence available, this has no connection with the mystifying title of the classic Howlin' Wolf number *Wang-dang-doodle*, with its haunting refrain "We're gonna pitch wang-dang-doodle all night long."

MENDACILOQUENT

(c) Speaking lies, from the Latin *mendax* lying + *loquor, loqui* to speak. MPs please note. If you say the word fast enough and with a strong enough regional or class accent in the Chamber when so characterising another parliamentarian (and Hansard knows, in that place it is the highest most commonly applicable epithet), Madam Betty Speaker might just let you get away with it.

CICURATE

(c) To tame or reclaim from a state of wildness. "Kathryn, I am not having that young masn of your in the house again until he has been thoroughly cicurated."

FULSOME

(a) Excessive; cloying through surfeit. Widely misused as a compliment. On the contrary, *fulsome* praise is toe-curling over-praise, as for example that given by a British sports commentator to the British team who have just come last in the first heat of the synchronised swimming in the Commonwealth Games. Derived from *full*, but applicable, oddly enough, only to praise. One does not speak of *fulsome* criticism or *fulsone* abuse.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Ke5! and if either rook moves to f8, then 2 Rh7+ Kg8 3 Rcg7 is mate.

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FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Vauxhall Conference

Stalybridge v Northwich (7.45) ....

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Gresley v Cambridge City (7.45). Southern division: Weston-super-Mare v Braintree

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Carshalton v Worthing (7.45); Grays v Boreham Wood First division: Thame v Oxford City Second division: Hungerford v Canvey Island. Third division: Epsom and Ewell v Kingsbury.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Gainsborough v Chorley; Knowsley v Marine.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Ipswich v Chelsea (at Bury St Edmunds); Watford v West Ham (2.0). Second division: Birmingham v Bournemouth (2.0); Plymouth v Newport AFC

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Stoke v Derby (7.0). Second division: Coventry v Bradford (7.0); Manchester City v Grimsby (at Witton Albion FC, 7.0); Middlesbrough v Sunderland (7.0)

LEAGUE OF WALES: Cemaes Bay v Connah's Quay.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Senior division: The 61 FC (Luton) v Ampthill; Risborough Rgrs v Holmer Green; Houghton v Kent Ath; Winslow v Leverstock Green.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Ansells v West Midland Fire Service; Knowle v Coventry Sphinx; Massey Ferguson v Olton Royale; Meir KA v Bloxwich; Shirley v Studley BKL; Southam v Coleshill.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division; Shortwood v Endsleigh.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Cup Final: Burscough v Flixton.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division; Lye Town v Westfields.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: March v Diss; Sudbury Res v Fakenham.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill v Peacehaven and Telscombe.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Brigg Town v Glasshoughton Welfare; Stocksbridge PS v Hallam.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Whitstable v Chatham.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National League: Millwall Lionesses v Croydon.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Essex Cup: Semi-final: Hertfordshire v Kent (Welwyn Garden City, 7.0). Hobbs Trophy: Semi-final: Vale of White Horse v Mid-Oxon (Letcombe FC, 6.15). Tent Harvest Trophy: Final: North Kent v Bromley (Cobdown, 6.15). Essex Clark Cup: Harlow v Newham (Harlow Sports Centre, 6.0). Essex Black Final: Manor v Brentwood, (Dagenham, 5.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

First division

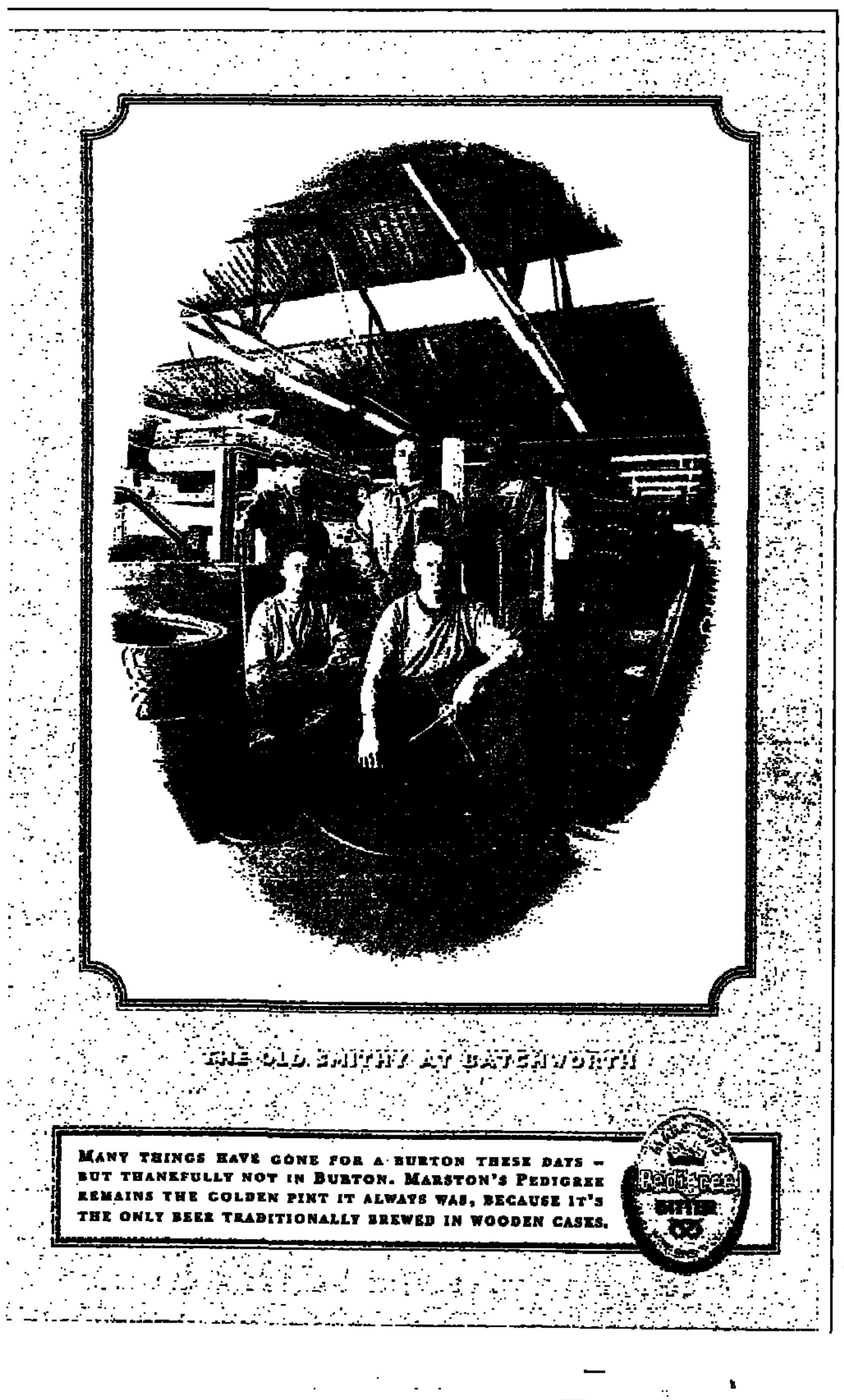
Huddersfield v Whitehaven (7.30) ...

OTHER SPORT

SNOOKER: Embassy world championship (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Ipswich v Sheffield (7.30), London v Cradley Heath and Stoke (7.30). Speedway Star Cup: First round, second leg: Middlesbrough v Hull (7.30).

TENNIS: LTA women's satellite tournament (Edinburgh).


THE OLD SMITHY AT BATCHWORTH

MANY THINGS HAVE GONE FOR A BURTON THESE DAYS – BUT THANKFULLY NOT IN BURTON. MARSTON'S PEDIGREE REMAINS THE GOLDEN PINT IT ALWAYS WAS, BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY BEER TRADITIONALLY BREWED IN WOODEN CASKS.

So refreshing, this Margarita from Cuba

Clive James tuned in to a public access channel in New York several years ago, catching sight and sound of Margarita Pracatan, who is a singer. Who is a singer? Thank you for asking: Kiri Te Kanawa is a singer. Ella Fitzgerald is a singer. Margarita sings, but so does a kettle.

At any rate, James was enthralled by Margarita, so he asked her to Britain. Margarita, whose English is as fractured as her notes, puts it this way: "He ask me to London, I sink he is crazy."

Clive James Introduces Margarita Pracatan (ITV) was the craziest, most uplifting thing on television last night, an account of *Margarita's* trip to play the Edinburgh Festival. The theatre was packed. The streets were packed. She even drew a crowd to the airport.

Margarita, a Cuban exiled to New York, is a middle of the road singer, though she could empty the middle of the M25 just by expanding her larynx. As James said: "When she sings she stirs your brains *around with a spoon."* Margarita has no singing talent whatsoever and that is her triumph.

She is a lady of a certain age. She wears a riot of primary colours resembling a tube of Smarties left near an open fire. Those who think the latest football strip designed by Umbro for the England goalkeeper is the most hideous concoction in sartorial history have yet to see Margarita.

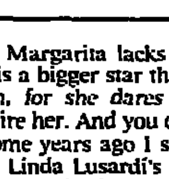
If the clothing is loud, the syntax is a dictionary consulted at random. On a tour of Edinburgh, she sits at a keyboard in a musical instrument store and asks the Scottish salesman for a price: "Talk to me in English, how much dollars?" On a tourist bus, having been battered by Roberts (Bruce, Adam etc) she announces: "They all called Robert over here, right?"

The unlikeliest Titans of English popular culture are reduced, magnificently, to sex objects. James has "bedroom eyes" and Margarita likes "patting his head". She thinks she loves him. On a live discussion show, she tells Ned Sherrin — of all people — "I am into you already". And interrupts a Sherrin reference to her talent with the God's honest truth: "I don't have talent at all, honey."

Aside from the fact that I will surely never forget hearing Sherrin called honey, that *was the moment that defined* Margarita's triumph. Her personality could bring about a total eclipse of the sun, but her success on stage arises not out of being better than us, but out of being just as bad. James had it right: "She is us without the fear of failure."

Nobody in the television schedules last night lacked ability the way Margarita lacks ability. But she is a bigger star than the lot of *them, for she dares you not to* admire her. And you dare not.

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

Some years ago I sat at a desk with Linda Lusardi's thighs adjacent to my keyboard. I forget why *she was having her photograph* taken sat on my desk, though you will realise that she is not the only Page 3 girl to demand this privilege.

Last night **Wish You Were Here . . ?** (ITV) sent Lusardi to do an item on the Dominican Republic. They should have sent Margarita, *who would have formed* a government by the end of the first week. Lusardi kept her bikini top on but otherwise failed to distinguish herself.

Why do holiday programmes feel obliged to send "personalities" to resorts? And why do so many of *the personalities behave as if they* are startled to find a television camera under their noses?

"Oh hello, I was just leaving but I suppose I can spare a couple of *minutes."* This was Lusardi's introduction to the item: patronise the viewer while packing to go home, a surefire way to get us on board.

Lusardi found the Dominican Republic cheap, but of course holiday spending is not over until you have taken the taxi from Heathrow. Still, **Modern Times: Streetwise** (BBC 2) achieved the remarkable feat of making me feel sorry for putative London cabbies.

The programme obtained, apparently *for the first time, access to* the Public Carriage Office, which tests candidates on "the knowledge". It is, undeniably, a torturing process with arcane procedures and undertones of the supercilious attitudes encountered in our schooldays.

Thus one examiner, on discovering that a candidate had unwisely spent the two weeks prior to the test on holiday: "Where did you go on holiday, Mr Wood?" "Spain." *"It shows — leave the door open on* your way out."

London cabbies are a fabulous source of inaccurate information, so I was prepared to treat as apocryphal accounts of a black candidate being asked the route from Blackboy Hill to the Race Relations Board and an Irish man being tested on the routes between various army barracks.

Apocryphal, that is, until the *camera filmed a candidate who* had been jailed for burglary many years earlier being asked to start a journey at the Penal Reform Society. Mr Ormes, the examiner, said later that he was unaware of the man's record when he asked the question. Mr Ormes keeps a *plastic parrot on his window ledge* which faces out when he has had a good day and in when he has had a bad one.

The best bit, however, was when *Modern Times* revealed that, according to the Inland Revenue, the reward for going through years of pedalling around London on a bicycle and umpteen attempts to pass the test is, on average, £10,000 a year after tax.

Come off it Squire; you pulling my leg, or wot? If the taxman believes that, I sink he is crazy.

6.00am Business Breakfast (22038)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News *(Ceefax) (53309)*

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (7588496)

9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7711458)

9.45 Kilroy (s) (1864651)

10.30 Good Morning (s) (96545)

12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (6567361)

12.05pm World Championship Snooker (s) (8345651)

12.35 Going for Gold. The genial Henry Kelly hosts the general knowledge quiz (s) (3403309)

1.00 One O'Clock News *(Ceefax) and* weather (56496)

1.30 Regional News and weather (94145106)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (44247670)

2.00 The Flying Doctors (52467)

3.30 Playdays (r) (s) (1386564) **3.50 Dinobabies** (1293800) **4.10 The Wizard of Oz** *(Ceefax) (s) (2576651)* **4.35 The Boot Street Band** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (9175361) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (1688212) **5.10 The Ant and Dec Show** (Ceefax) (s) (1884816)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (329274)

6.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (632)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (212)

7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (5187)

7.30 EastEnders. Pauline is off to Jersey — but will Mark wish her bon voyage? (Ceefax) (s) (496)

8.00 Wildlife on One. The golden hornbill is captured on film in the African savannah. Despite their comical appearance, *hornbills are ferocious hunters. But they* do have another side — they are sociable birds who live in tight-knit family groups. (Ceefax) (s) (4835)

8.30 Noel's NTV Stars. Noel Edmonds looks at some favourite moments from the past five years of *Noel's House Party* (Ceefax) (s) (6670)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7380)

9.30 Absolutely Fabulous. Patsy becomes involved in a sex scandal. With a host of guest stars including Helena Bonham Carter, Mandy Rice-Davies, Richard E Grant, Germaine Greer and Suzi Quatro (r) (Ceefax) (s) (54941)

10.00 Crimewatch UK. Nick Ross and Jill Dando team up with the forces of law and order to try to solve crimes with the aid of viewers (Ceefax) (s) (724125)

10.45 Question Time. Political debate chaired by David Dimbleby from Nottingham. The guests tonight are MPs Paddy Ashdown, Angela Browning and Robin Cook and chief economic adviser, CBI, Kate Barker (Ceefax) (544670) **N.I.: 10.45** Spotlight **11.15** Question Time **12.25-2.05** FILM: Happy Together

11.45 Crimewatch UK Update (Ceefax) (s) (752038)

11.55 FILM: Grand Slam (1989) with John Schneider, Paul Rodriguez and Susan Walters. Two rival bounty hunters are forced to join forces when they are both hired to find the same man. Directed by Bill L Norton (Ceefax) (s) (212800)

1.25am Weather (7354881)

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6.00am Open University: Maths Modelling *(7312106)* ***6.25*** *Languages for Learning* (7324941) **6.50** Of Fish and People (8308583)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (4492106)

7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (Ceefax) (34274) **8.00 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1008212) **8.25 Brum** (r) (7129598)

8.40 The Record (8225293)

9.05 The Biology Collection (s) (7721835) **9.30 Techno** (8883421) **9.45 Writing and Pictures** (Ceefax) (s) (3833926) **10.00 Playdays** (r) (s) (6566767) **10.25 Storytime** (s) (5785293) **10.45 Science Zone** (s) (1732903) **11.05 Space Ark** (9491651) **11.15 Sex Education** (5280941) **N.I.: 11.15** Ulster in Focus

11.35 Landmarks: Tudors and Stuarts (Ceefax) (s) (6292922) **12.00 Shakespeare — the Animated Tales** (s) (11748)

12.30pm Working Lunch (49019) **1.00 Lifeschool** (s) (79828816) **1.25 Revista** (86656125) **1.45 Numbertime** (s) (94155583) **2.00 Brum** (49692336)

2.10 World Championship Snooker (5783748)

3.00 News (Ceefax) (7449106) **3.05 Westminster** (Ceefax) (s) (7422941) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) and weather (2669380)

4.00pm World Championship Snooker. *Live second-round action (5564)*

6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine — The Alternate (794941)

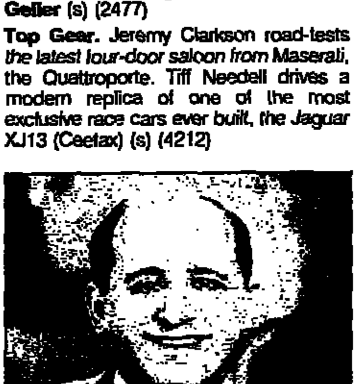
6.45 The O Zone. Music magazine (397496)

7.00 Waiting for God. News comes through that Bayview is to have a royal visit. Tom thinks it is wonderful; Diana doesn't (r) (Ceefax) (s) (3729)

7.30 First Sight (598) **N.I.: 7.30** Now You're Talking **7.55** Our Roving Reporter ***WALES: 7.30*** *Homeland (598)*

8.00 CHOICE **Secrets of the Paranormal: Bending Footballs by Uri Geller** (s) (2477)

8.30 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson road-tests *the latest four-door saloon from Maserati,* the Quattroporte. Tiff Needell drives a modern replica of one of the most exclusive race cars ever built, *the Jaguar* XJ13 (Ceefax) (s) (4212)



Former hitman Giancana (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Reputations: Sam Giancana — the Gangster** (Ceefax) (3293)

10.00 World Championship Snooker. David Vine introduces more first and second-*round action (s) (12477)*

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (493903)

11.15 World Championship Snooker. Highlights from the first and second rounds (s) (707516)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (s) (21220)

12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Secrets of the Paranormal: Bending Footballs

BBC2, 8.00pm

Since Uri Geller personally controlled this film he has only himself to blame if viewers are sceptical of his attempts to transfer his spoon-bending prowess to football. Geller's curious exercise starts promisingly enough. Having narrowly failed to win promotion to the Premier League last season, his team, Reading, embark on two of their best cup runs. We are led to believe that this is not unconnected with Geller, who sits in the stand inspiring the team with his psychic powers. Then Reading draw Manchester United in the FA Cup. Will Cantona, Giggs and company fall to Geller's magic? Football fans will recall the answer, and they will know that despite Geller's efforts Reading have slid steadily down the First Division.

Reputations: Sam Giancana

BBC2, 9.00pm

As the most powerful gangster in the United States Sam Giancana led the sort of life that documentary film-makers must drool over. But much of it is conjecture and the phrase "according to legend", and variations on it, occurs repeatedly in Christopher Olgiati's film. Speculation and hearsay underpin Olgiati's central thesis. According to this *Giancana* was approached by old Joe Kennedy to get his boy Jack elected President by swinging votes in Chicago. The city's Mafia boss duly obliged and in a close contest, his intervention could have been decisive. But Giancana was furious when his help was not rewarded and took his revenge at Dallas in November 1963. The conspiracy theory lives again and it is plausibly argued. But, as in a previous Olgiati film about the death of Marilyn Monroe, little of the *evidence would stand up in court.*

Ellington: No Such Thing As a Draw

ITV, 9.00pm

Chris Ellison's eponymous sports promoter *gets involved in a football plot so serpentine* that the programme should offer two Cup Final tickets to the first person who can come up with the correct answer. All that can usefully be said in a short space is that a club manager under pressure to sign a star Russian player is actually plotting a deal to further his own career. It is a grubby tale and the more naive among us may like to think that such devious manoeuvring would never happen in real life. Can the game be so cynical? But Julie Welch, who wrote the script, is an experienced football journalist and may not be making it up. Indeed her *fictional club, called United, based in the* North West and with a tight-lipped Scottish manager, sounds not unlike the one that did *for Uri Geller's Reading.*

Witness: Unabomber

Channel 4, 9.00pm

The arrest this month of a former *mathematics professor,* Theodore Kaczynski, followed the 17-year hunt for a crusader against modern technology whose *bombs have killed three people and maimed* 23. Whether Kaczynski is the Unabomber must await the course of justice. Meanwhile, Joanna Head's film is an impressive attempt to fill in the background. It shows how, despite the death and destruction he has caused, the Unabomber has become a folk hero. Many Americans support his opposition to what he sees as pernicious scientific and economic progress, and his targeting of computers, genetics, pharmacology and airlines. The victims of the Unabomber naturally take a different view while some see not an idealist but a *serial murderer hiding behind spurious* moral arguments. **Peter Waymark**

6.00am GMTV (6658552)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (7729477)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (6543816)

10.00 The Time . . . The Place *(s) (2156309)*

10.35 This Morning (44956309)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6563545)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (3499106)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (3407125) **1.25 Coronation Street** (r) (Teletext) (5630767)

2.00 Home and Away *(Teletext) (s)* (54336632)

2.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (54355767)

2.50 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (4684941)

3.20 News (Teletext) (7456496)

3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7455767)

3.30 The Riddlers (r) (8584651) **3.40 Wizadora** *(r) (s) (7309922)* **3.50 Rupert** (r) (1382748) **4.15 Samson Superslug** (Teletext) (s) (2560090) **4.40 Crazy Cottage** *(Teletext) (s) (5065941)*

5.10 A Country Practice (s) (6826598)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (878125)

6.00 Home and Away. Travis and Shane go overboard in mid-ocean to escape from a gang of criminals (r) (Teletext) (s) (325019)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (583922)

7.00 Emmerdale. Zoe and Susie discover they have more in common than they thought (Teletext) (s) (3583)

7.30 3-D. Julia Somerville asks whether Britain's education system is failing the country's brightest children (s) (564)

8.00 The Bill: Going for a Song. Carver calls on an old colleague to investigate an antique clock not yet stolen (Teletext) (9903)

8.30 Hollywood Pets. This week: a man whose girlfriends take second place to *his iguanas and lizards, the inseparable* Mr Winters (human) and Mr Jiggs (chimp) and the strange companionship of a pet wolf called Nakiska (Teletext) (s) (8038)

Chris Ellison as Ellington (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Ellington.** *Ellington gets drawn into a club transfer* battle (Teletext) (s) (7019)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (65423)

10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (618835)

10.40 On the Line. Ken Rees hosts a live discussion on a *topical issue (693816)*

11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H. Last in current series (476496)

12.40am Carnal Knowledge (4996404)

1.40 Not Fade Away. PJ & Duncan select their favourite videos (s) (4080794)

2.40 Shift (3269978)

3.35 Late & Loud *(r) (s) (9586775)*

4.30 The Time . . . The Place (r) (s) (56591)

5.00 Garden Calendar (r) (31794)

5.30 Morning News (26775)

As HTV WEST except:

6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight *(583922)*

7.30-8.00 Trains (564)

10.40 Strangely Scientific *(415274)*

11.10-11.40 3-D (356926)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.25-12.30 My Story (6571564)

12.55 Emmerdale (3407125)

1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (79823361)

1.55 Home and Away (68930816)

2.25 Vanessa (54346019)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (2660516)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away *(6826598)*

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (44564)

10.30 Westcountry News (609187)

10.45 The LADS. Male magazine series (424922)

11.10-11.40 Tales from the Crypt (356926)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55 Home and Away (3407125)

1.25 Chain Letters (79823361)

1.55 A Country Practice (44228545)

2.20 Vanessa (54347748)

2.50-3.20 High Road (4684941)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6826598)

6.25 Central News and Weather (333038)

6.55-7.00 Life Line (196854)

10.40 Film: Black Widow (68123106)

1.35am Not Fade Away (4081423)

2.35 Shift (4685220)

3.30 Customs Classified (2524355)

4.15 Jobfinder (8175336)

5.20 Asian Eye (1753794)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Chain Letters (3407125)

1.25 Home and Away (79823361)

1.55 Shortland Street (44228545)

2.20 Vanessa (54347748)

2.50-3.20 Surprise Chefs (4684941)

5.10 Home and Away (6826598)

5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - Crimestoppers (178980)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (800)

6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (380)

10.40 Film: Erik the Viking (28838699)

12.25am ITV Sport Mini Classics (5807881)

12.40 Phoenix (4996404)

5.00 Freescreen (31794)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 The Adventures of T- Rex (8389458) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (46019) **9.00 The Golden Girls** (19380) **9.30 Film:** ***Three Men in a Boat*** *(92666318)* ***11.10*** **The Three Stooges** (5283038) **11.30 Bush Tucker Man** (1583) **12.00 House to House** (59336) ***12.30pm Hullabaloo*** *(34187)* **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (49106) **1.30 Film: The Homecoming** (41542534) **3.15 The Ricki Lake Show** (6440380) **4.00 Jimmy's** (293) **4.30 The Lonely Planet** (477) **5.00 5 Pump Uned 5** (1361) **5.30 Fifteen to One** (729) **6.00 Newyddion** (774361) **6.15 Heno** (209458) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (603729) **7.25 Corws** (861632) **8.00 Cleex** (7545) **8.30 Newyddion** (9380) **9.00 Pris Y Farchnad** (8361) **10.00 Snwcer: Pencampwriaeth** (87645) **10.30 Film: Red Rock West** (68135941) **12.25am Dispatches** (3204355)

6.35am The Adventures of T-Rex (r) (8389458)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (46019)

9.00 The Golden Girls (r) (Teletext) (s) (19380)

9.30 FILM: Three Men in a Boat (1956) with *Laurence Harvey, David Tomlinson and* Jimmy Edwards. Jerome K Jerome's classic comic novel about the misadventures of a trio of Edwardians on a boating holiday on the Thames. Directed by Ken Annakin (92666318)

11.10 The Three Stooges (b/w) (5283038) **11.30 Bush Tucker Man** (1583) **12.00 House to House** (59336) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (r) (41670) **1.30 Hullaballoo.** Followed by **Alfie Atkins** *(r) (s) (33458)*

2.00 FILM: Confessions of a Nazi Spy (1939, b/w) with Edward G Robinson. Classic anti-Nazi drama about a determined G-man out to smash a *German spy ring* based in the United States. Directed by Anatole Litvak. (Teletext) (7632)

4.00 Jimmy's (r) (Teletext) (293) **4.30 Fifteen to One** (Teletext) (s) (477) **5.00 Ricki Lake** (Teletext) (s) (6157057)

5.45 Terrytoons followed by **Murun Buchstansangur** (142212)

6.00 NBA 24/7. Russell Simmons talks about the successful Def Jam Records and the *fashion empire Phat City;* and the Coen brothers with Steve Buscemi, the star of their latest thriller *Fargo* (670)

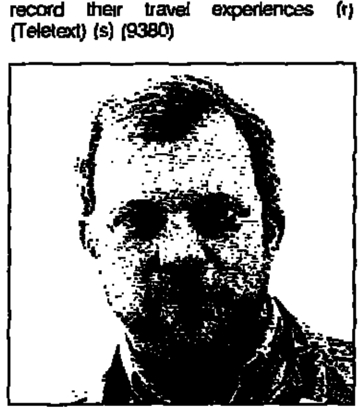
6.30 Roseanne. Roseanne is reluctant to loosen the apron strings (r) (Teletext) (s) (922)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (985651)

7.50 The Slot (943019)

8.00 Wild Britain. Wildlife film-maker Maurice Tibbles shows how the development of *Stansted airport has been achieved in* reasonable harmony with the local wildlife (Teletext) (s) (7545)

8.30 The Real Holiday Show. Holidaymakers record their travel experiences (r) (Teletext) (s) (9380)



Victim Dr John Hawser (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Witness: Unabomber** (Teletext) (s) (8361)

10.00 NYPD Blue. A killer tries to avoid a prison sentence by pretending to be insane (Teletext) (s) (457941)

10.55 Whose Line Is It Anyway? Improvised comedy (r) (Teletext) (s) (297816)

11.30 Rory Bremner — Who Else?(r) (s) (543767)

12.10am Dispatches (r) (Teletext) (3281404)

12.55 FILM: Prejudice (1988) with Patsy Stephen and Grace Parr. An Australian docudrama, based on fact, following the story of two women linked by discrimination. Directed by Ian Munro (777152). Ends at **2.50**

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am Undun (99125) **9.00** Press Your Luck (8208477) **9.20** Love Connection (9437106) **9.45** The Oprah Winfrey Show (2403552) **10.40** Jeopardy! (2413106) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9921038) **12.00** Beechy (93800) **1.00pm** Hotel (82748) **2.00** Geraldo (53835) ***3.00*** *Court TV (9822)* **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (6376854) **4.15** Undun (9923903) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (1354) **6.00** The Simpsons (7293) **6.30** Jeopardy! (8545) **7.00** LAPD (1903) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4729) **8.00** Through the Keyhole (6421) **8.30** Animal Practice *(6458)* ***9.00*** *The Commish (32787)* ***10.00*** Star Trek: The Next Generation (35854) **11.00** Melrose Place (79361) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (7892862) **12.45am** CMI Wars (1521620) **1.30** Anything But Love (65862) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play (1705648)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour

9.30am *Beyond 2000 (58583)* ***10.30*** ABC Nightline (66212) **1.30pm** CBS News (25859) **2.30** Parliament Live (4858699) **3.15** Parliament Live (4067380) **5.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton *(21670)* ***7.30*** Sportsline (26309) **8.30** Reuters Reports (4800) **11.30** CBS News (20361) **12.30pm** ABC News (51292) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (90317) **2.30** Reuters Reports (45442) **3.30** Parliament Replay (24959) **4.30** CBS News (39794) **5.30** ABC News (68775)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am All These Women (1964) *(26598)* **8.00 The Three Faces of Eve (1957)** (44187) **10.00 To Dance with the White Dog (1993)** (86309) **12.00 Almost Summer (1978)** (87038) **2.00pm The Poseidon Adventure (1972)** (26106) **4.00 A Christmas to Remember (1978)** (6106) **6.00 To Dance with the White Dog** (1993) (78944800) **7.40 US Top Ten ()** (777903) **8.00 Corrina, Corrina (1994)** (18187) **10.00 Fortress (1994)** (782545) **11.35 Attack of the 50 Ft Woman (1994)** (557106) **1.10am Convoy (1978)** (843355) ***3.00 A Part of the Family (1993)*** *(34152)* **4.30 Almost Summer (1978)** (34249)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm State Fair (1962) (7748) **6.00 The Narrow Margin (1952)** (11212) **8.00 The President's Analyst (1967)** (90729) **10.00 The Gauntlet (1977)** (805835) **11.55 Tristana (1970)** (740854) **1.35-3.15am** ***Lust for a Vampire (1970) (410336)***

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Meet Me In Las Vegas (1956) (96380) **8.00 Robin Hood Junior (1975)** (2980699) **9.05 Thumbelina ()** (7386552) ***10.00 Little Miss Broadway (1938)*** *(89651)* ***12.00 Buck Privates (1941)*** *(58380)* **2.00pm Groundhog Day (1993)** (24748) **4.00 Robin Hood Junior (1975)** *(3111380)* **5.05 Thumbelina** (7185903) **6.00 Missing Parents (1993)** (37212) **8.00 Groundhog Day (1993)** (19431019) **9.45 The Movie Show** (122212) **10.15 Blink** *(1993) (410816)* ***12.00 The Red Shoe Diaries No 4: Auto Erotica (1993)*** (7998442) **1.25am The Burning Season** (1995) (81725336) **3.40 Betrayal of Trust** (1993) (12947539)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.

6.00am Muppet Babies (49133835) **6.30** *Winnie the Pooh (49578038)* **7.00** Ducktales (10907477) **7.30** Quack Attack (10919212) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers (93188187) **8.30** Adventures in Wonderland *(93187458)* ***9.00*** *Under the Umbrella Tree* (93101038) **9.30** Fraggle Rock (26138467) **10.00** Muppet Babies (49552090) **10.30** Pooh Corner (93190922) **11.00** Winnie the Pooh (42589922) **11.30** Dumbo's Circus (42580651) **12.00** Walt Disney Presents (82330800) **1.00am** FILM: Little Spies *(49143212)* ***2.30*** *Under the Umbrella Tree* (80133380) **3.00** Winnie the Pooh (87444212) **3.30** Ducktales (80145125) **4.00** Quack Attack (80124632) **4.30** Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers (80120816) **5.00** Boy Meets World (87423729) **5.30** Danger Bay (80144496) **6.00** Tarzan (80141309) **6.30** Dinosaurs (80126361) **7.00** The Torkelsons (87436293) **7.30** Faerie Tale Theatre (52985093) **8.30** Entertainment Special *(82492903)* ***9.30-10.00*** Dinosaurs (32431859)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (92800) **8.30** Eurofun (45800) **9.00** Motorcycling Magazine *(32380)* ***9.30*** Live Tennis (9852496) **4.30** Olympic Magazine (7212) **5.00** Live Ice Hockey *(2106)* ***5.30*** *Ice Hockey (94212)* **7.00** Live Ice Hockey (341354) **9.30** Tennis (65125) **10.30** Pro Wrestling (18057) **11.30** Formula 1 (89274) **12.00-12.30am** Motorcycling Magazine (85648)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am *Sports Centre (13729)* ***7.30*** Wrestling (70632) **8.30** Racing (23632) **9.00** Aerobics (47212) **9.30** Futbol Mundial (51903) **10.00** West Indies v New Zealand (71767) **12.00** Aerobics (34748) **12.30pm** International Football: England v Croatia (43090) **2.30** Inside the PGA Tour (2380) **3.00** Trans World Sport (26903) **4.00** Nascar Supertrucks (44038) **5.00** Wrestling (6545) **6.00** Sports Centre (2039) **6.30** Formula 3 Racing (4361) **7.00** Rugby (72309) **8.00** Netbusters (518944) **8.55** Sports Centre (803748) **9.00** Boots'n'all (61293) **10.00** Sports Centre (35477) **10.30** *Rugby (13699)* ***11.30*** *Futbol Mundial* (94106) **12.00** Netbusters (82620) **1.00am** Boots'n'all (16591) **2.00-2.30** Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm Golf (3755564) **9.00** US PGA Golf — Live (9801835) **11.00** Skiff Sailing *(7530274)* ***11.30*** *Formula 3 Racing* (1128990) **12.00-1.00am** Trans World Sport (4866688)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Thought for the Day **4.05** Worship **4.15** Kidz TV **4.30** 700 Club **5.00** Voice of Victory ***5.30*** *Christian Music TV* ***5.45*** This is Your Day with Benny Hinn

SKY SOAP

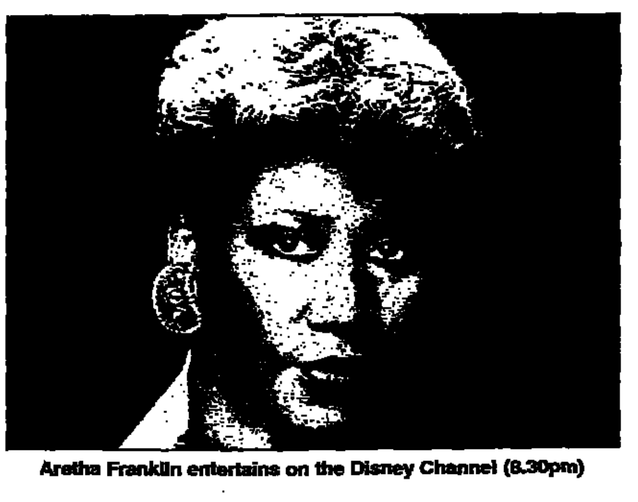
7.00pm Guiding Light (8435851) **7.55** As the World Turns (1015583) **8.50** Peyton Place (3167496) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (7537421) **10.10-11.00** Another World (3690800)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (7548293) **11.30** Sports Vacations (7549922) **12.00** Moving Postcards *(5462962)* ***12.30pm*** *Spice of Life* (1945748) **1.00** Getaway (3774699) **1.30** Around the World (1944019) **2.00** Everest. The Australian Expedition (2673485) **3.00** Globetrotter (4874080) **3.30** Around the World (7087212) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Our Century (7538545) **5.00** Memories of 1960 (4898870) **6.00-7.00** Biography (1963787)



Aretha Franklin entertains on the Disney Channel (8.30pm)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am The Six Million Dollar Man (9387317) **2.00** FILM: World of Dracula (6560607) **3.40-4.00** Sci-fi Buzz (58522317)

TLC

9.00am Surprise Chefs (3630293) **9.30** Grow Your Own (1510748) **10.00** Stagestruck (4589632) **10.30** Our House (3638477) **11.00** Room for Improvement (7711545) **11.30** Craftwise (7712274) **12.00** Julia Child (3627729) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (1514564) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (1667187) **1.30** Furniture to Go (1513835) **2.00** Our House (8051361) **2.30** Gardens Without Borders Special (6926212) **3.00** Screaming Reels (8070496) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (6905729)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (1660274) **7.30** Neighbours *(1689309)* ***8.00*** *Sons and Daughters* (3546800) **8.30** EastEnders (3858699) **9.00** The Bill (3632651) **9.30** The Sullivans (1512106) **10.00** All Creatures Great and Small (1678293) **11.00** Bullseye (7713903) **11.30** Odd One Out (9707090) **12.05pm** Sons and Daughters (23304787) **12.30** Neighbours (1516922) **1.00** EastEnders (4065309) **1.35** Sykes (2362854) **2.15** Brush Strokes (3025699) **2.50** Butterflies (3789458) **3.30** The Bill (6907187) **4.00** Minder (65697361) **5.05** Every Second Counts (5120309) **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo! (9490583) **6.25** EastEnders (9898699) **7.00** The Two Ronnies *(4429729)* ***8.00*** Bullseye (8073583) **8.30** Home James (8052090) **9.00** Minder (4441941) **10.00** The Bill (2512545) **10.35** Bottom (6464496) **11.10** The Sweeney (2480090) **12.10am** Classic Sport (3347607) **1.10** Public Eye (1742336) **2.05-3.00** Shopping (1029355)

TCC

6.00am Pugwall (62106) **6.30** Degrassi Junior High (80038) **7.00** Ready or Not (12125) **7.30** California Dreams (81632) **8.00** Byker Grove (68729) **8.30** Saved by the Bell (67800) **9.00** The New Pink Panther Show (74380) **9.30** Garfield (28699) **10.00** Eek the Cat (64090) **10.30** Creepy Crawlers *(70564)* ***11.00*** *Casper and Friends (64816)* **11.30** Dinobabies (65545) **12.00** Barney (61816) **12.30pm** Tiny and Crew (80632) **1.30** Sesame Street (81361) **2.30** Tiny and Crew (6748) **3.00** Eek the Cat (9106) **3.30** The New Pink Panther Show (1293) **4.00** California Dreams (7800) **4.30-5.00** Saved by the Bell (9212)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Banana Sandwich (97552) **7.00** Attack of the Killer Tomatoes (44699) **7.30** The Littlest Pet Shop (23106) ***8.00*** Wishbone (22903) **8.30** Rude Dog and the Dweebs (21274) **9.00** Biker Mice from Mars (45854) **9.30** Clarissa (59545) **10.00** Rugrats (86564) **10.30** Aaahh!! Real Monsters (41038) **11.00** Rocko's Modern Life (48800) **11.30** Doug (29729) **12.00** Sister *Sister (25090)* ***12.30pm*** *The Adventures of* Pete and Pete (53361) **1.00** Capitol Critters (36670) **1.30** Pet Shop (52632) **2.00** Wishbone *(1800)* **2.30** Rude Dog and the Dweebs *(7962)* **3.00** Count Duckula (3835) **3.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (2767) **4.00** Tales of the Cryptkeeper (1274) **4.30** *Rugrats (7458)* ***5.00*** *Sister Sister (8380)* **5.30** Secret World of Alex Mack (1038) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (1651) **6.30-7.00** Clarissa (2903)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellers (6917564) **4.30** Human/Nature (6913748) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (8075941) **5.30** Voyager (6824800) **6.00** Ambulance! (6927941) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (6614187) **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (6914477) **8.00** The Professionals (4436019) **9.00** Top Marques (7731309) **9.30** Disaster (1421800) **10.00** Classic Wheels (4442670) **11.00-12.00** The Sexual Imperative (1677564)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: The Mesa of Lost Women (9919564) **1.30pm** Death Valley Days (1500361) **2.00** Department S (4584187) **3.00** Danger Man (7710816) **4.00** FILM: Accident (8078038) **6.00** The Green Hornet (6921767) **6.30** Department S (9634941) ***7.30*** *Weekly World News (6901903)* ***8.00*** Planet of the Apes (4423545) **9.00** Twin Peaks (4443309) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Dreamscape (7719187)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (5816) **7.30** Entertainment (8187) **8.00** Due South (89699) **9.00** Soap (31564) **9.30** Taxi (73125) **10.00** Frasier (33019) **10.30** Dr Katz (42767) **11.00** Ren and Stimpy (43309) **11.30** Rocky and Bullwinkle (92748) **12.00** Dominion Tank (85602) **12.30am** Benson *(96084)* ***1.00*** *Wings (92442)* ***1.30*** *Laverne* and Shirley (79620) **2.00** Entertainment (41775) **2.30** Dr Katz (53510) **3.00** Ren and *Stimpy (89978)* **3.30-4.15** *Rocky and* Bullwinkle (8744355)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (5657699) **7.00** Esther (4835941) **7.30** The Young and the Restless *(4642106)* ***8.30*** *Going to Pot (8440274)* **9.00** The Taste of Health (8479019) **9.35** Kate and Allie (8977729) **10.05** Jerry Springer (8450854) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8943019) **11.55** Brookside (4745380) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (3217564) **1.25** Crosswits (6587922) **2.00** *Agony Hour (2240903)* ***3.00*** *Live at Three* (6525477) **4.00** Infatuation UK (2182458) **4.30** Crosswits (3879496) **5.05** Lingo (58247570) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2195922) **6.00** Bewitched (2192835) **6.30** Brookside (6880699) **7.05** Michael Barry's Choice Cuts (4226535) **7.35** The Joker's Wild *(6115458)* ***8.00*** *Street Legal (3744816)* **9.00** FILM: Portrait of a Showgirl (79981293) **10.55** Entertainment Now! (1189729) **11.00-12.00** The Sex Files II (4811361)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Boogies Diner (4651) **5.30** Night *Hood (9944)* ***6.00*** *Batman (7477)* ***6.30*** Catchphrase (8729) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (1187) **7.30** Me and the Boys (4011) **8.00** The Beiderbecke Affair (92187) **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: Wolf to the Slaughter (81421) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (15038) **11.00** Sirens (98545) **12.00** Trivial *Pursuit (56978)* ***12.30am*** *Me and the Boys* (13012) **1.00** Batman (38268) **1.30** All Together Now (52336) **2.00** Big Brother Jake (96249) **2.30** Sirens (37866) **3.30** All Together Now (99336) **4.00** Trivial Pursuit (70201) **4.30-5.00** Night Hood (19133)

MTV

7.30am Boyz II Men Rockumentary (93090) **8.00** Morning Mix Featuring Cinematic (724632) **11.00** Star Trax (19038) **12.00** Greatest Hits (28980) **1.00pm** Music Non-stop (87941) **3.00** Select MTV (78019) **4.00** Hanging Out (37922) **5.30** Dial MTV (2922) ***6.00*** *Soap Dish (9835)* ***6.30*** *The Big Picture* (4877) **7.00** Star Trax (18125) **8.00** Evening Mix (94545) **9.00** X-ray Eyes (87767) **10.30** Beavis & Butt-Head (73651) **11.00** Headbangers' Ball (62318) **1.00am** Videos (1831987) **5.00** Morning Mix (51881)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (3766670) **9.00** Cafe VH-1 (5559534) **12.00** Heart and Soul (1959941) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (1935361) **2.00** Ten of the Best: UB40 (4208313) **3.00** Into the Music (1372545) ***6.00*** Happy Hour *(1955125)* ***7.00*** *VH-1 for* You (9891458) **8.00** Thursday Review (9800106) **9.00** Ten of the Best: Marc Almond (9813670) **10.00** The Vinyl Years (9890729) **11.00** Music First (3753106) ***12.00*** *VH-1 to 1: Tina Turner (2227046)* **12.30pm** The Bridge (7259355) **1.00** Ten of the Best: Kim Wilde (9389775) **2.00** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE

Country music from **6am to 7pm on satellite, 24 hours on cable,** including **5pm** Saturday Nite Dance Ranch **6am-7am** Big Ticket

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran (46493729) **7.30** Zee Presents . . (37879125) **9.00** Filmi Chakkar (26575380) **9.30** Your Zindagi (25923941) **10.00** Tara (46401748) **11.00** Shakti (68412458) **11.30** FILM (50249831) **2.30pm** *Buniyaad (83367835)* **3.00** *Uroosa* (68417903) **4.00** Zee Top Ten (68436038) **5.00** Zee Zone (27295187) **5.30** Sa Re Ga Ma (85392583) **6.30** Zee & U (83359816) **7.00** Hero Kal Aaj Aur Kal (27208651) **7.30** Galaxzee (83275800) **8.00** News (27224699) **8.30** Andaz (27203106) **9.00** *Urdu Serial (95708125)* ***10.00*** *Zee Horror* (26563545) **10.30** Yaadon Ke Rang (36572293) **11.00** Commander (68437767) **11.30-12.00** Aap Ki Farmaish (38224106)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.

7.00pm The Phantom of Hollywood (1974) (10918583) **9.00 Young Bess (1953)** (85697019) **11.00 The Hill (1965)** (67345458) **1.15am The Green Helmet (1961)** (82460688) **2.55-5.00 The Phantom of Hollywood (1974)** (55952133)

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm Fela — *Teacher Don't Teach Me Nonsense* **8.00** *Aria* **8.30** *Mats Ek's Giselle* **10.00** Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 6 **11.00** Aria **12.00-1.00** James Morrison

BBC WORLD

News on the hour.

8.05am The Big Trip **9.30** The Clothes Show **10.30** Top Gear **1.05pm** Horizon **2.15** World Business **2.30** Newshour Asia and Pacific **3.30** Madhur Jaffrey's Far Eastern Cookery **4.05** The Americas **5.30** One Foot in the Past **8.05** Correspondent **9.30** Tomorrow's World **12.10am** *Newsnight* ***4.05*** *Question Time*

ATHLETICS 43
JACKSON BACK AND RUNNING ON BRITISH SOIL

SPORT

SNOOKER 46
GRIFFITHS TAKES POT LUCK IN DRAMATIC VICTORY

THURSDAY APRIL 25 1996

Laudrup brothers torment defence

Scotland make no allowance for family link

Denmark 2
Scotland 0

FROM KEVIN McCARRA
IN COPENHAGEN

SIBLING rivalry can do terrifying damage. Last night, however, neither of the brothers engaged in it suffered any harm. Instead, the Laudrups, with their attempts to outdo one another in agility of mind and nimbleness of foot, punished Scotland as Denmark won a slick victory in the Parken stadium here.

The visiting team at least possessed the sturdiness of spirit that allowed them to reduce the embarrassment in the second half, but, inadequate in defence and insufficiently accomplished in attack, they have, on the evidence of this defeat, little to look forward to in the European championship finals in June. For the winners of this match, who are the holders, the future looks wholly different.

It is a token of Denmark's resources that the football community here can become irritable when discussing Michael Laudrup, sighing over his supposed failure to nurture the talent he displayed as a teenager. Most countries would cherish a wastrel whose record resembled that of the Real Madrid player.

Before this match, he had scored 34 goals in 86 appearances for Denmark, even though he has, for several years, been more of a midfield creator than a forward. This game invited him to enhance his ratio since his team, with only one more international, against Ghana, before they begin the defence of the European championship were restless and eager to demonstrate their power.

Laudrup's goal, in the seventh minute, owed more to inept defending than to flair, however. Hendry allowed Beck to sneak into space behind him and, when a ball struck down the Scotland left slipped past the centre half, the Fortuna Koln player was free to race to the byline.

McMahon's joy 44
Sugar turns sour 44

Beck, whom Rangers have persistently been interested in signing, squared the ball and a faint deflection from McKimmie allowed Laudrup to pivot and stroke the ball home. A loss of concentration had put Denmark in command but Richard Moller Nielsen's team have no need of such inadvertent assistance.

The other Laudrup was soon insisting on taking his turn to torment, squaring, after quarter of an hour, for Beck to hit a drive that Leighton managed to block with a boot. The Laudrups were harassing Scotland like men avenging an ancient wrong done to their family. As if the quality of the brothers' skills was not alarming enough, those gifts also proved complementary.

Michael loves to pass and Brian delights in striding past defenders. When those arts were combined, in the 27th minute, Scotland fell a further goal behind. The Real Madrid player eased the ball through the middle and his brother ran on to finish in his favoured manner by strolling round the goalkeeper.

Admiration for the swagger with which Scotland were being trounced could not divert the onlooker from troubling over the visiting team's inability to cope with dangers that had been expected. Craig Brown's team has taken a modest pride in denying more flamboyant sides but that knack appears to be deserting them just as the European championship approaches.

The defence, to be fair, was altered a little last night because of the absence of Calderwood and McLaren, both injured, but the replacements were experienced men.

Were it not for their distress, Scotland's followers might have recoiled at the thought that this was a fixture in which their team had hoped to discover an effective pairing in attack. The visiting team were unable to advance frequently enough to carry out the intended experiments.

Given the bleak circumstances, however, Spencer's capacity to catch the eye on occasion merited respect.

He had fashioned Scotland's only chance before the interval, taking McAllister's pass and sliding play on for Gallagher to strike a drive that Schmeichel fended away.

A lay-off by Spencer reached McAllister soon afterwards and his drive ran just wide.

This vitality in the later stages said much for Scotland's powers of endurance and also spoke of Denmark's leniency in a game that they had already won handsomely.

DENMARK (3-5-2): P Schmeichel (Manchester United; sub: M Krogh, Brondby 45min) — M Rieper (West Ham United), L Olsen (Brondby), J Risager (Brondby) — P Helveg (Udinese), C Thomsen (Ipswich Town), M Laudrup (Real Madrid; sub: A Nielsen, Brondby, 85), B Nielsen (OB Odense), M Schjonberg (OB Odense) — B Laudrup (Rangers), M Beck (Fortuna Koln).

SCOTLAND (3-5-2): J Leighton (Hibernian, sub: A Goram, Rangers, 45) — S McKimmie (Aberdeen), C Hendry (Blackburn Rovers; sub: W McKinlay, Blackburn Rovers, 74), T Boyd (Celtic) — C Burley (Chelsea), G McAllister (Leeds United), S McCall (Rangers), J Collins (Celtic), T McKinlay (Celtic) — J Spencer (Chelsea; sub: A McCoist, Rangers, 72)), K Gallacher (Blackburn Rovers; sub: D Jackson, Hibernian 72)

Referee: J Wegereef (Holland).

Fleming, the Ireland defender, gets to grips with Hapal, the Czech Republic midfield player, during the international in Prague yesterday

Kuka makes Irish pay for errors

Czech Republic 2
Ireland 0

FROM PETER BALL
IN PRAGUE

THE Czech Republic finally overcame a below-strength Ireland in the Strahov-Prague Stadium yesterday. Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, could, however, take encouragement from his team's performance in his second game in charge until defensive mistakes allowed Kuka two free runs on goal inside eight minutes after the hour.

That left Ireland looking well beaten at the close, but until then a side which began with two new caps, and had a third added when an injury ended Denis Irwin's participation at the interval, had more than held their own.

Kenny Cunningham, the Wimbledon defender, had an excellent debut, and if Alan Moore, of Middlesbrough, was quieter, the performances of Kennedy and Houghton, at either end of the age spectrum, gave Ireland plenty of hope. The new system and the new team is beginning to bed in successfully.

"I thought we played very well in the first half," McCarthy said. "We created the better chances before the interval, the Czech ones came from sloppy passes by us rather than them creating anything, but then bad defending cost us the first goal and when we started chasing it, we lost our shape and looked like conceding more, which is what we did. But I could be pleased with the first half."

Ireland might even have led at the interval. Irwin had a strong appeal for a penalty turned down when Latal appeared to pull him down as he tried to cut the ball back from the byline, and Quinn saw a couple of headers test Kouba.

Given had also had to make one or two saves before the interval, in particular stretching to take the ball off Kuka's toe as the Czech Republic forward went round him. That was matched by Kouba's save from Houghton at close range as Kennedy's clever pass created the opening.

Czech minds have been on the ice hockey championships in Vienna this week rather than on football, and the sparse crowd did little to inspire their team. Berger broke dangerously from midfield twice, but Cunningham shepherded him away to safety both times.

Alongside Cunningham, Babb was less secure and when Drulak beat him through the middle, Irwin had to come across to make the saving tackle, in the process collecting the kick on the calf which ended his participation. Ireland were having the better of things, an impression confirmed when Repka was booked for a foul on Townsend and again when Kadlec had to block Kennedy's shot after the ball had run loose when Kouba challenged McGrath.

Ireland began the second half in similar vein, but Babb's mistakes were beginning to increase. Given came to the rescue when he gave the ball away to let in Kuka, but there was no such relief when Babb left Kuka free to collect a return pass from Bejbl before drawing Given and slipping the ball square for Frydek to score.

Daish immediately replaced Babb, but before he had had time to settle down, the second goal arrived. Again it came down the left as Hapal's pass found Kuka running free. Given for once betrayed his youth with an impetuous rush, and Kuka evaded him easily to score.

That was effectively that. Given made a good save to deny the dangerous Berger and Kerbr saw a shot fly narrowly wide, but the last chance fell to Ireland as Moore shot straight at Kouba after being given his first sight of goal by Quinn's header.

CZECH REPUBLIC (3-5-2): P Kouba (Sparta Prague) — M Hornak (Sparta Prague; sub: K Rada, Sigma Olomouc, 73min), M Kadlec (Kaiserslautern; sub: L Kubik, Petra Drnovice, 46), T Repka (Sparta Prague) — R Latal (Schalke 04; sub: P Nedved, Sparta Prague, 60), M Frydek (Sparta Prague), V Nemecek (Servette; sub: R Bejbl, Slavia Prague, 46), P Berger (Borussia Dortmund), P Hapal (CD Tenerife) — R Drulak (Petra Drnovice), P Kuka (Kaiserslautern; sub: M Kerbr, Sigma Olomouc, 78).

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (3-5-2): S Given (Blackburn Rovers) — K Cunningham (Wimbledon), P McGrath (Aston Villa), P Babb (Liverpool: sub: L Daish, Coventry City, 66) — J Kenna (Blackburn Rovers), R Houghton (Crystal Palace), A Townsend (Aston Villa), M. Kennedy (Liverpool), D Irwin (Manchester United; sub: C Fleming, Middlesbrough, 46) — N Quinn (Manchester City), A Moore (Middlesbrough).

Referee: H Strampe (Germany).

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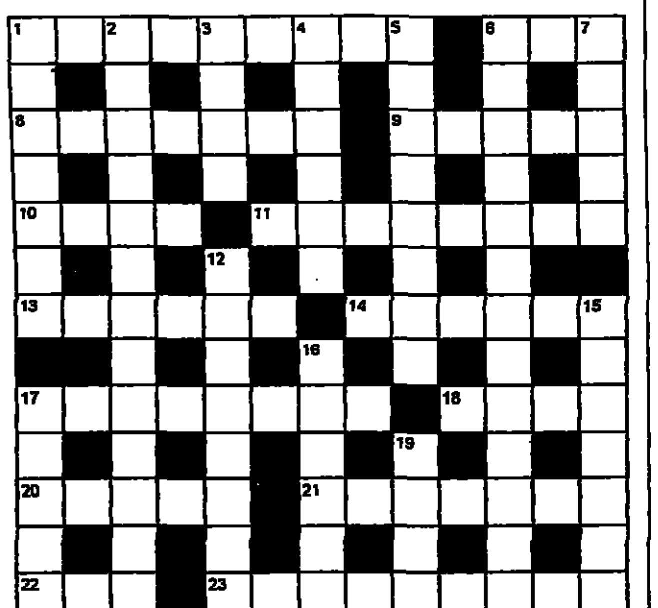

ACROSS
1 Petty-minded official (9)
6 Take (exam); pose (for portrait) (3)
8 Cheat of money (7)
9 Raptor's claw (5)
10 OT book: — Pound, US poet (4)
11 Showing moral, artistic decline (8)
13 Type of TV comedy series (6)
14 A football team; ringed sort of cross (6)
17 Memento (8)
18 Worry with teeth (4)
20 Bored, no longer impressed (5)
21 Free time (7)
22 Piece; horse's mouthpiece (3)
23 Sprang back again (9)

DOWN
1 (Machinery) vibrates abnormally (7)
2 As an ordinary seaman (6,3,4)
3 Feeble (4)
4 Ship's steering device (6)
5 Trouble (one gets into) (3,5)
6 Eloquent, persuasive (6-7)
7 Item of belief, dogma (5)
12 A Frenchman (8)
15 Cattle-minder (7)
16 US space station (6)
17 Skewered and grilled meat (5)
19 (In) place (of) (4)

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SOLUTION TO NO 764
ACROSS: 1 Rack 3 Macabre 8 Bannock 9 Ton-up 10 Sweep 11 Torpedo 13 Syndicate 17 Resting 19 Coper 20 Tamil 22 Haulage 23 Conform 24 Byre
DOWN: 1 Robust 2 Consensus 3 Make things hum 4 Cater 5 Ban 6 Employ 7 Coupon 12 Exemplary 14 Accrue 15 Critic 16 Frieze 18 Igloo 21 Man

Lewis convinced he can recapture world title

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

LENNOX LEWIS believes Mike Tyson must face him to legitimise his claim to be the leading heavyweight in the world. Lewis has gone to the courts in his efforts to secure a match against the American and last month a New Jersey judge ruled that he must be the next challenger for the World Boxing Council (WBC) crown.

"I don't believe Tyson can actually say he is the best in the world, yet not fight me," Lewis said. "I believe Tyson is a warrior and would want to take on the challenge."

Lewis had argued that the WBC was ignoring its own 1995 ruling that he should challenge for the title next, having beaten Lionel Butler in a title elimination bout. Instead, the WBC sanctioned Tyson's clash with Frank Bruno last month.

Lewis vowed to compensate British boxing supporters for Bruno's performance against Tyson if he gets the chance to challenge for title. "Tyson just went out there and beat him up," Lewis said of Tyson's third-round victory over his fellow Briton. "Bruno did all that talking, saying he would do this and that, and really he exposed himself and just embarrassed himself. He not only let himself down, but the British public."

Lewis, who hopes the judge's ruling will stand and force Tyson to make his next defence against him, said that he would knock Tyson down and reclaim the title he held in 1993-94.

"It would be just like Buster Douglas, but I have better tools than Douglas," Lewis said of the man who knocked out Tyson six years ago in the champion's only defeat. "I'll not go in there looking for the knockout, but I have power in both hands. I could do that."

Lewis made his comments during a news conference in New York, held to promote a heavyweight triple-header at Madison Square Garden on May 10.

The Briton, beaten only once in 29 professional bouts, will meet Ray Mercer, the 1988 Olympic gold medal-winning American, in the second bout on the card.

Lewis: confident

Evander Holyfield, the former undisputed heavyweight champion, takes on his fellow American, Bobby Czyz, in the featured bout, while the American, Tim Witherspoon, will meet Jorge Gonzalez, of Cuba, in the opening contest.

Michael Moorer, of the United States is to take on Axel Schulz, of Germany, for the vacant International Boxing Federation heavyweight (IBF) title on June 22, probably in Berlin.

The final hurdle to the IBF title bout was cleared yesterday when a United States Court of Appeal prevented Frans Botha, the South African, from seeking further injunctions against the Moorer-Schulz contest.

A federal court ordered the IBF to strip Botha of the title after he had failed a drugs test for steroids following a controversial victory over Schulz in December to win the title. Moorer lost his IBF crown to George Foreman on a tenth-round knockout in 1994.

The winner of the Moorer-Schulz meeting will be in line to take on Tyson, who is aiming to recapture the undisputed championship.

Wigan and Bath win concession

BATH and Wigan have won a concession over the attendance at Twickenham on May 25 for the second of their cross-code rugby meetings (David Hands writes). A limit of 50,000 spectators will be put on the match which, while 25,000 short of the stadium capacity, is still 12,500 more than the police were prepared to permit at the weekend.

Rugby Football Union (RFU) officials met representatives of the two clubs, the local police and British Transport Police yesterday. Though they have always been aware that a limit would be placed on the crowd because of engineering works on the railway line between Reading and Waterloo, Bath and Wigan reacted to the original limit with dismay.

Both seek to make as much money as possible from the two matches, the first of which is to be held at Maine Road, Manchester, and played rugby league rules on May 8.

Both clubs have agreed to run as many coaches to Twickenham as possible, thereby hoping to avoid overcrowding on the railway lines. No tickets for the match, to be played under union rules, will be for sale on the day.

TOMORROW
The Times county-by-county guide to the cricket season

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